

 Shojo Beat Manga

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Story & Art by

**Aya Nakahara**

**4**





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## The Story So Far...

Even though they're now in their second year of high school, "jumbo-gol" Risa Koizumi and shrimpy Atsushi Ôtoni are still in the same class. The only difference is that now Risa has a crush on her former mortal enemy! Seiko, an adorable first-year girl, falls in love with Ôtoni at first sight, and Ôtoni eagerly lops up her attentions, which include a very public kiss! It looks like they'll start going out, but then it turns out that Seiko is actually a boy. That's a big shock for Ôtoni and a big relief for Risa. But watching Seiko keep trying without letting her sex hold her back makes Risa want to cheer her on. Inspired by Seiko's example, Risa decides to stop worrying about her height and be more honest with herself. She loves Ôtoni, and she's going to tell him! But...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* vols. 1-3, available at bookstores everywhere!!



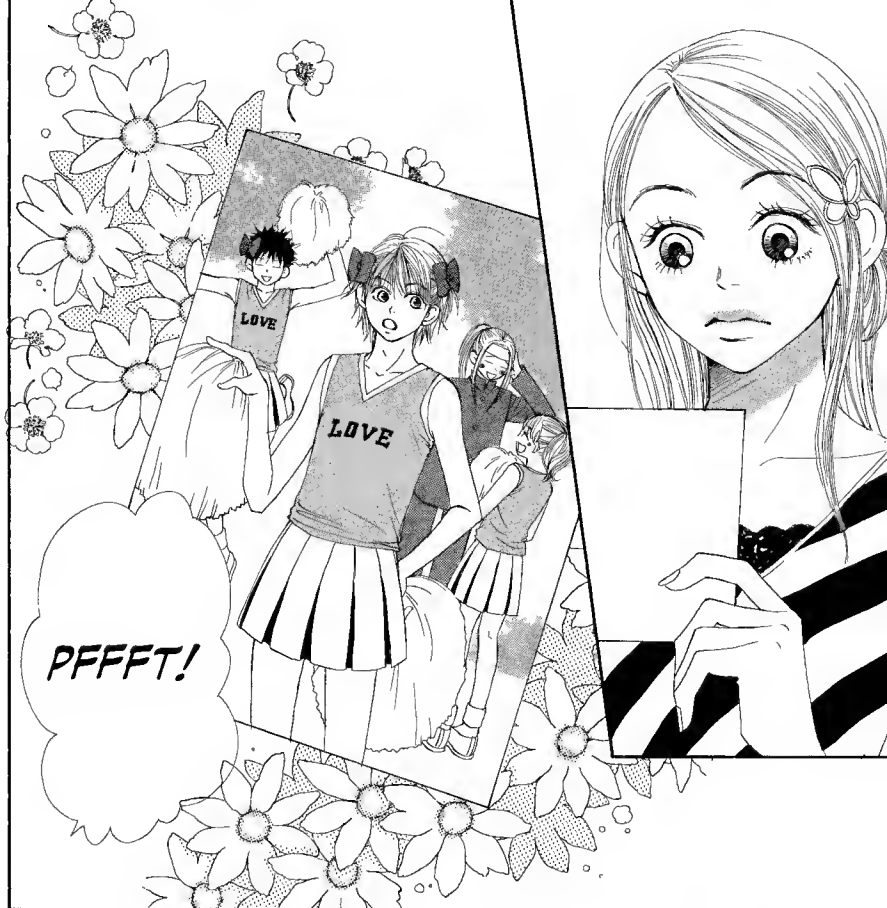
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Story & Art by  
**Aya Nakahara**



## CHAPTER 13







GOTCHA!

Hee hee  
Darn, I want along with it!!

WHAT BEAUTY PAGEANT?! I NEVER ENTERED ANY BEAUTY PAGEANT!!

OH, BOY! I SURE HOPE I WIN...

BETTER FIX YOUR MAKE-UP, MISS ÔTANI! THE BEAUTY PAGEANT STARTS IN JUST TEN MINUTES!

I HAVE A CRUSH ON ÔTANI.

BUT...



I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR SOME KIND OF OPPORTUNITY, I GUESS.

MAN, I WANNA GO TO THE POOL OR THE BEACH OR SOME-PLACE.



SO LET'S GO.

...



...IT WOULD BE WEIRD TO ACT DIFFERENT WITH HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN...

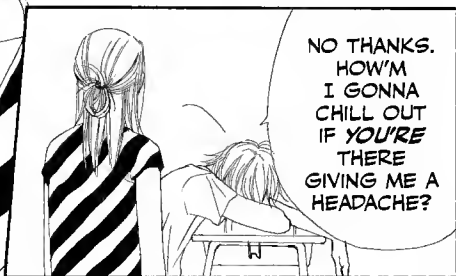
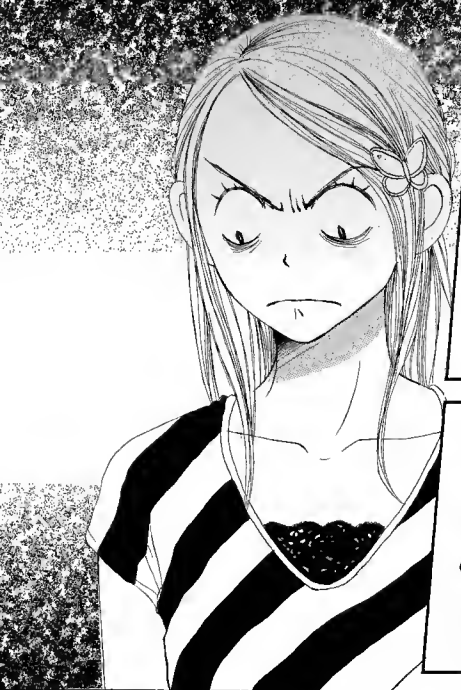
...AND THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JUST TELL HIM STRAIGHT OUT, SO...

MAN, IT'S HOT.

GREAT, NOW I'M ALL SWEATY.

Why, aren't the coolers on in this joint?

Service



NO THANKS.  
HOW'M  
I GONNA  
CHILL OUT  
IF *YOU'RE*  
THERE  
GIVING ME A  
HEADACHE?



HE'S NOT  
MAKING IT  
ANY EASIER  
FOR ME,  
THAT'S  
FOR SURE.  
SO MUCH  
FOR *THAT*  
OPPORTUNITY.

THE  
NEGATIVE  
IS IN MY  
HANDS,  
MY GOOD  
FRIEND.

Urgh...

She  
resorts  
to  
black-  
mail...

Ha  
ha  
ha  
ha  
-Okay,  
you  
guys,  
pipe  
down!

Mua  
ha  
ha



THIS IS  
EXACTLY  
WHAT I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT!!

Stop calling  
me Miss  
Otani!!

YOU  
BETTER BE  
NICE TO ME,  
OR I'LL  
SCATTER  
HUNDREDS OF  
THAT CHEER-  
LEADER  
PHOTO FROM  
THE ROOF!!

DON'T  
EVEN  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT!!

I'LL  
GIVE YOU A  
HEADACHE  
RIGHT NOW,  
MISS OTANI!!  
COME ON!!

QZQZQZ





Hello.  
Nakahara here.  
We're up to Vol. 4!

Ummmmmmmmmm...

Let's see...

What's new...

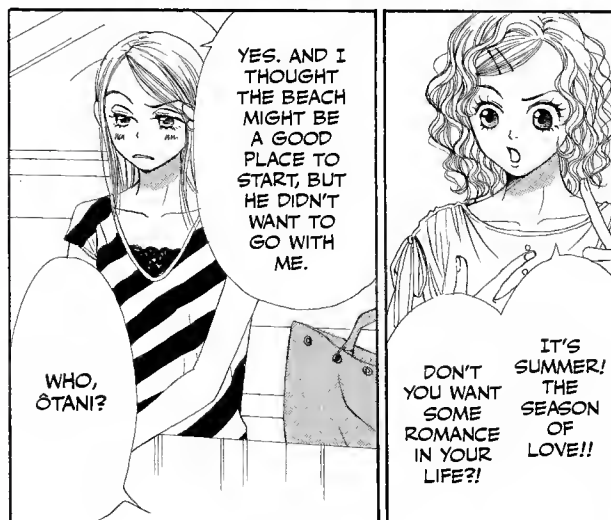
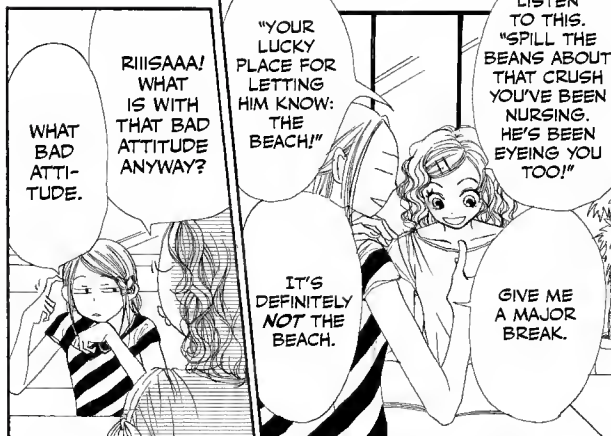
Oh! I got to hold an  
autograph session  
in Osaka last fall  
(2002) when  
Vol. 3 came out.  
I was really happy  
to see so many  
people there.

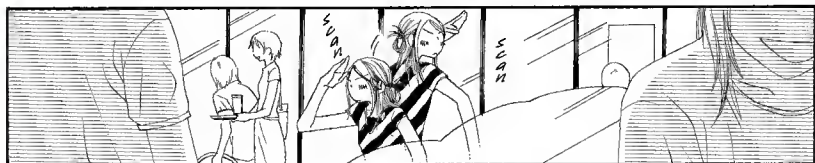
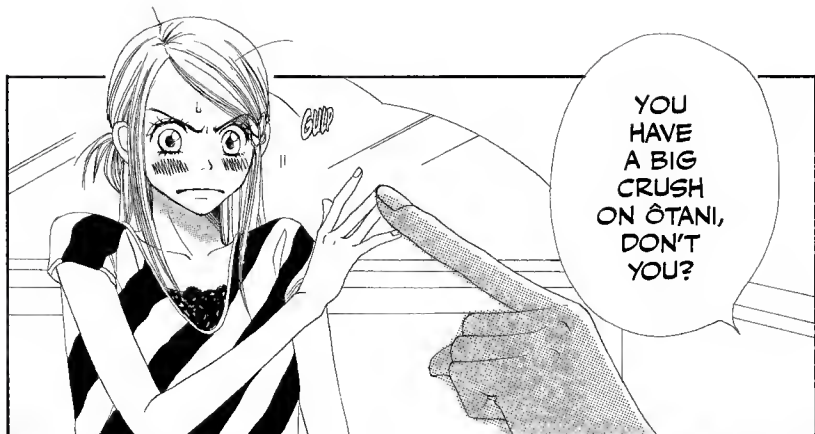
Thank you for  
coming! A few of  
the people asked  
me to draw a cat  
(neko) when it was  
their turn, and  
I wondered why...  
and decided they  
just wanted some-  
thing easy, and I  
drew the rabbit I ♪  
always draw instead.  
But then later,  
I found out that  
what they were  
really asking for  
was a poop (unko),  
not a cat...

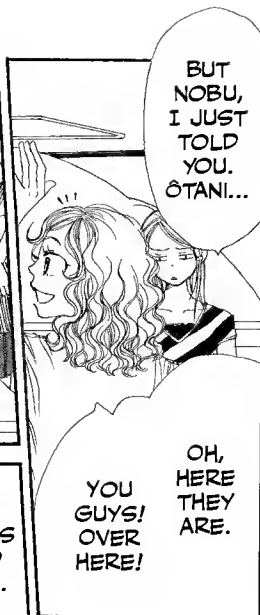
Ohhh, poop!  
Of course!! Very  
sorry, but I wasn't  
expecting requests  
of that nature,  
so I guess my ears  
just couldn't hear  
the word right.

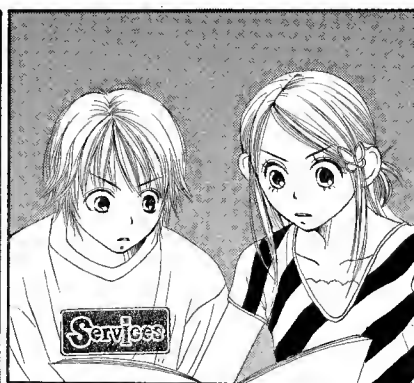
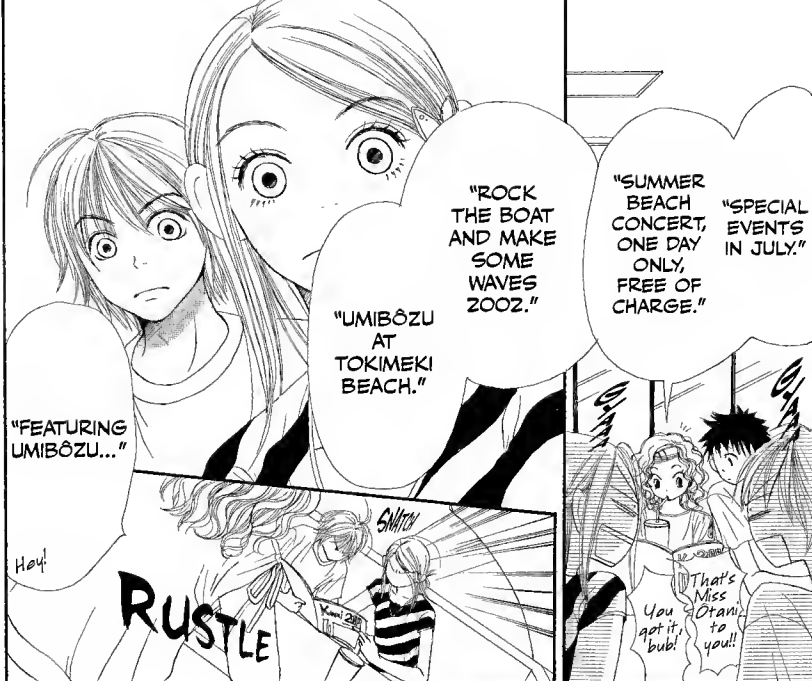
Gosh, it's like I'm one  
of those people who  
don't get it when you  
tell a joke— so sorry!!

You want poop, I'll  
draw as many poops  
as you want.  
Here you go! ♪











HE'LL  
GET  
HERE  
PRETTY  
SOON.

HUH?  
WHERE'S  
ÔTANI?

And  
seeing  
Umibozu!!

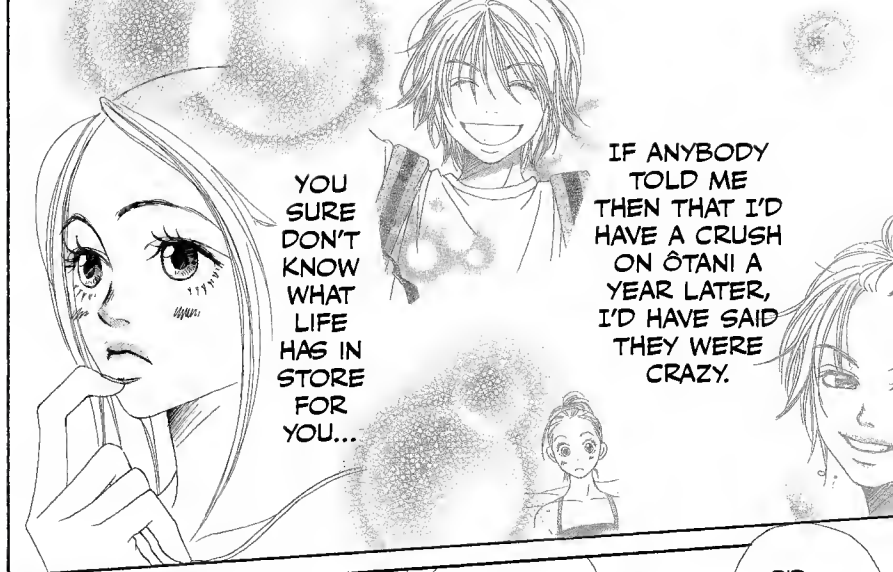
HE  
DIDN'T  
HEAR HIS  
ALARM  
CLOCK  
GO OFF.

LAST YEAR  
AROUND  
THIS TIME,  
WE ALL  
WENT TO  
THE POOL  
TOGETHER.



THAT  
DOOFUS.  
SO NOW  
WE HAVE  
TO WAIT  
FOR HIM?



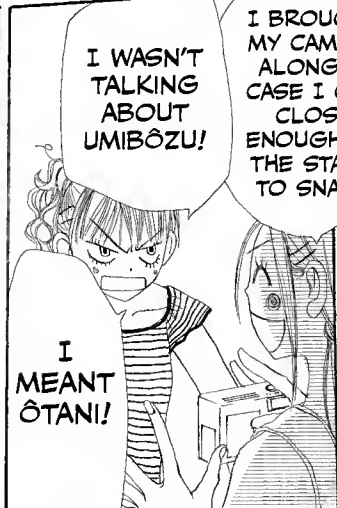


YOU  
SURE  
DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
LIFE  
HAS IN  
STORE  
FOR  
YOU...

IF ANYBODY  
TOLD ME  
THEN THAT I'D  
HAVE A CRUSH  
ON ÔTANI A  
YEAR LATER,  
I'D HAVE SAID  
THEY WERE  
CRAZY.

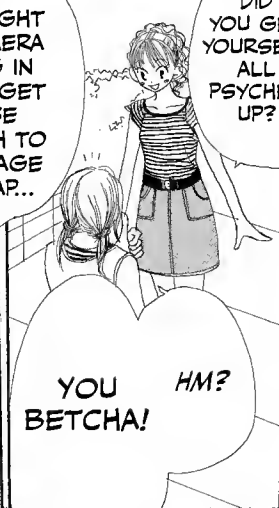


HUH?



I WASN'T  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
UMIBÔZU!

I  
MEANT  
ÔTANI!



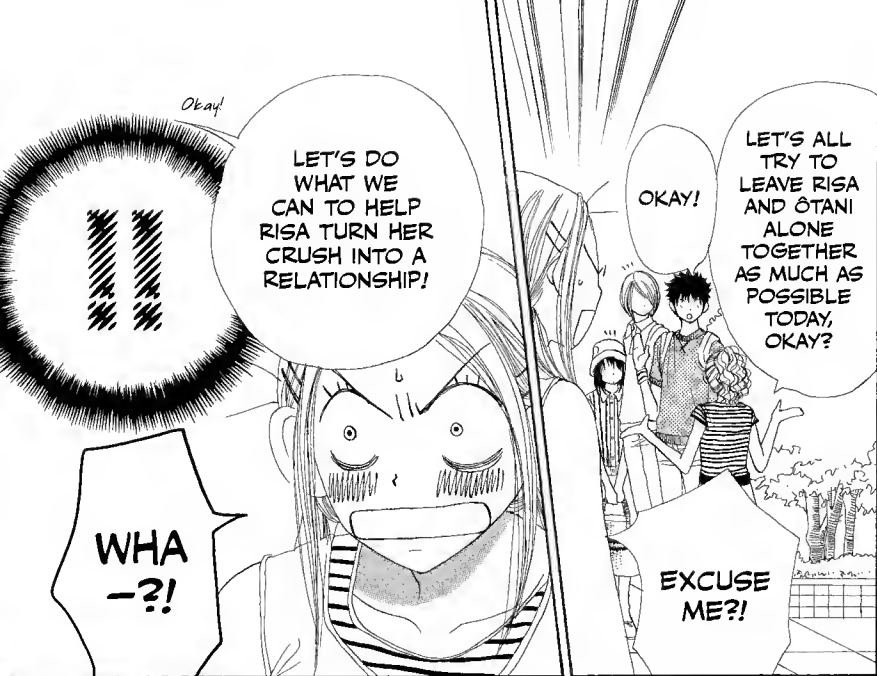
DID  
YOU GET  
YOURSELF  
ALL  
PSYCHED  
UP?

YOU  
BETCHA! HM?



OKAY,  
EVERY-  
BODY,  
LISTEN UP,  
PLEASE!

WHAT  
ABOUT  
ÔTANI?







REMEMBER,  
YOU'RE  
ONLY  
YOUNG  
ONCE,  
OKAY?!

NEXT  
THING  
YOU  
KNOW,  
YOU'RE  
MIDDLE-  
AGED!



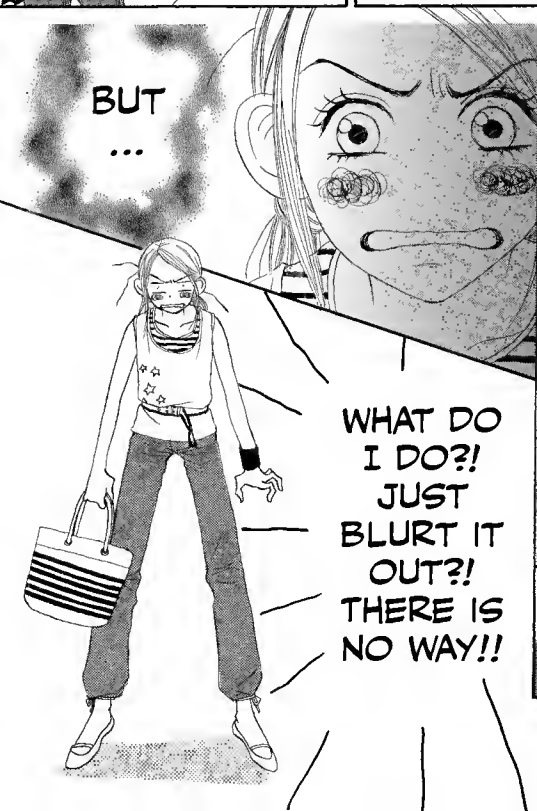
I'M SORRY,  
RISA, BUT  
YOU'RE THE  
TYPE WHO  
NEEDS TO  
BE PUSHED,  
'CUZ YOU'RE  
NEVER GONNA  
JUMP BY  
YOURSELF.



YES WAY.  
I SWEAR,  
THE ONLY  
PERSON  
WHO *HASN'T*  
NOTICED  
YET IS ÔTANI  
HIMSELF.

...BUT!

BUT,  
STILL!



BUT  
...

WHAT DO  
I DO?!  
JUST  
BLURT IT  
OUT?!  
THERE IS  
NO WAY!!



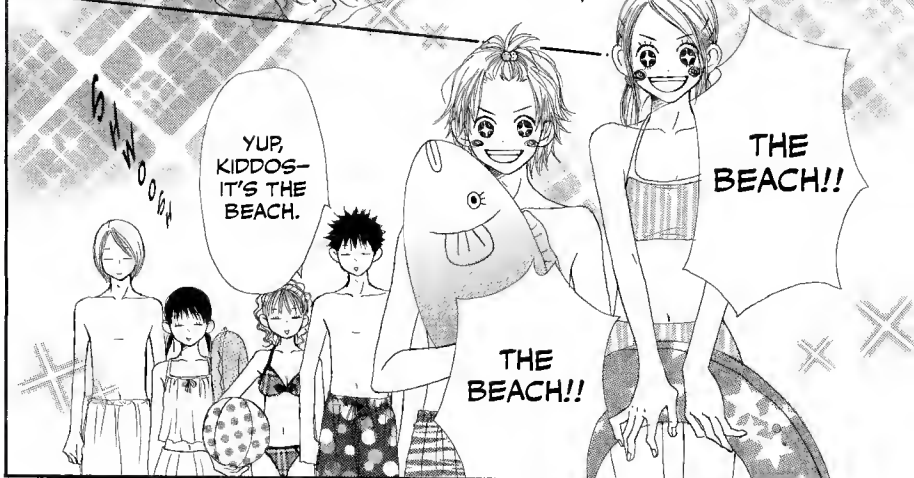
"THE  
PERFECT  
TIME FOR  
ROMANCE,"  
REMEMBER?!

IT'LL  
WORK  
OUT!

NOW  
YOU GO,  
GIRL!



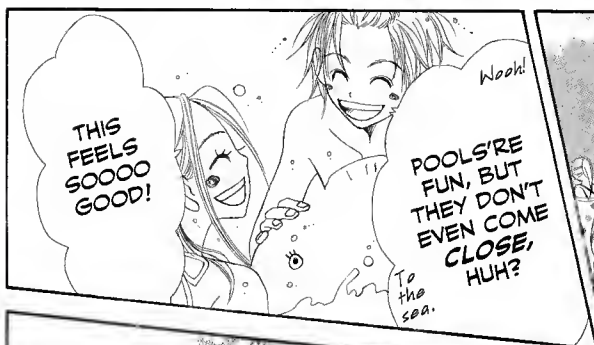
But loves the beach.



YUP,  
KIDDOS—  
IT'S THE  
BEACH.

THE  
BEACH!!

THE  
BEACH!!



THIS  
FEELS  
SOOOO  
GOOD!

Noah!

POOLS'RE  
FUN, BUT  
THEY DON'T  
EVEN COME  
CLOSE,  
HUH?

To  
the  
sea.



Wow, it's  
cold.

RACE  
YOU TO  
THE  
WATER!



ha  
ha  
ha

WHY?

SILLY!

I GOT  
SOME IN  
MY MOUTH.

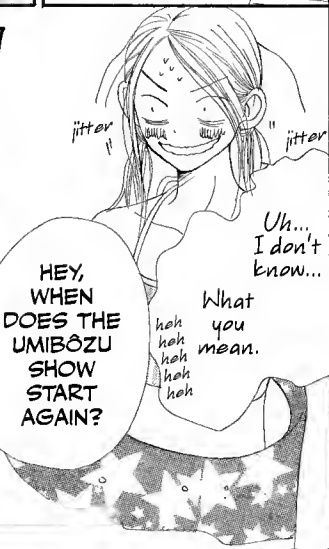
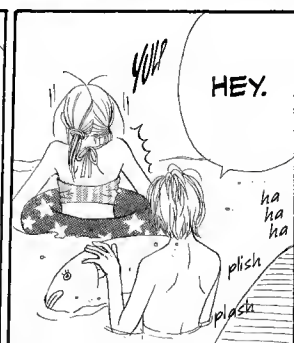
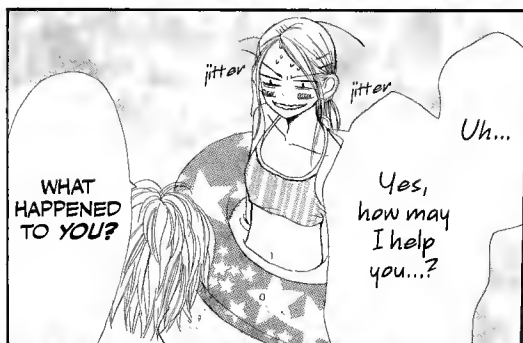
MAN,  
THAT'S  
SALTY!

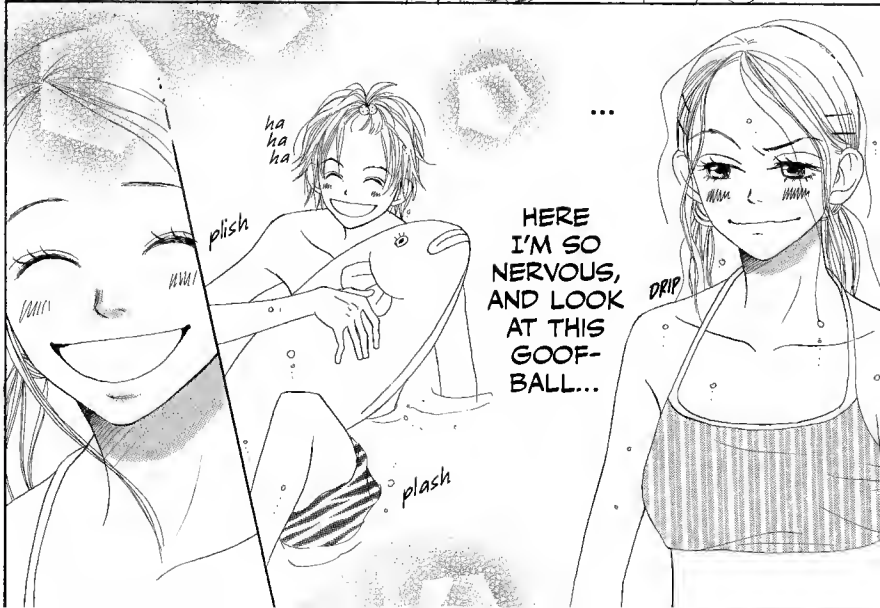
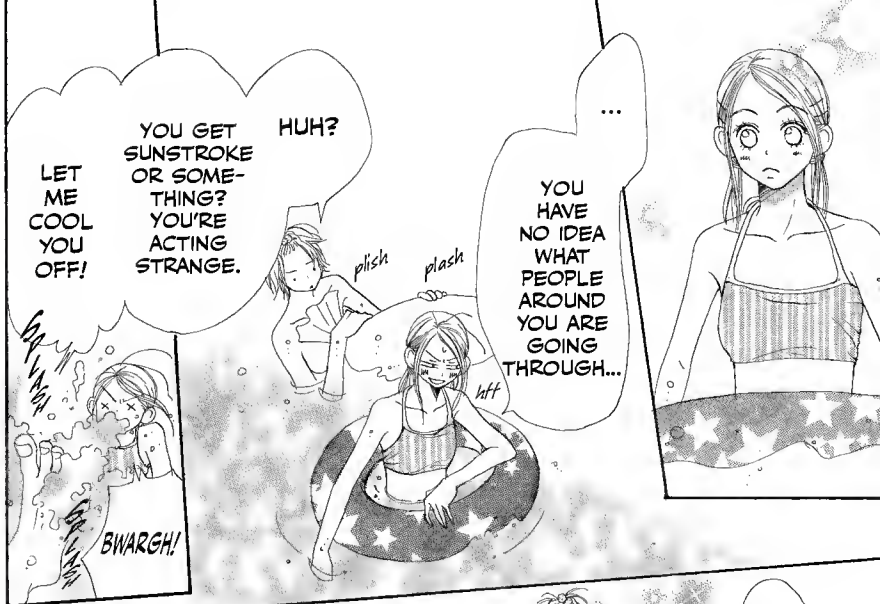
Ugh!



HEY, I  
WANTED  
TO BE  
THE FIRST  
ONE IN!

PLASH









HYAAAAAARGH!!

TOKIMEKI BEACH  
SUN & SAND CAFE



YOU  
ARE  
SUCH A  
DORK.

Yeah...  
ha ha  
ha.

ARE  
YOU  
OKAY,  
RISA?

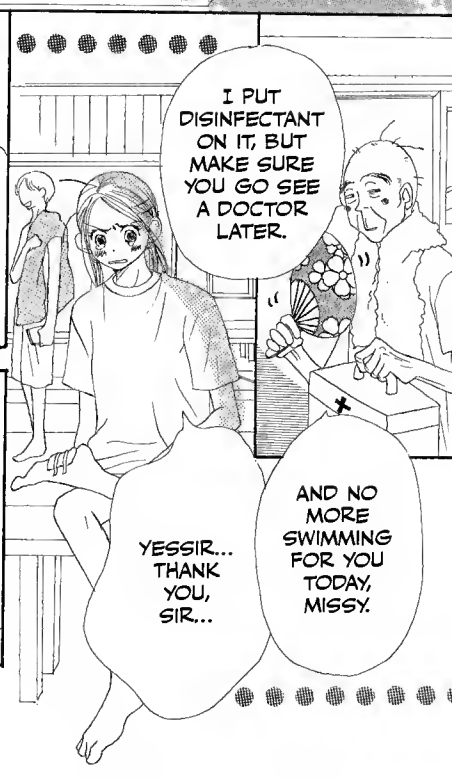
I heard  
you stepped  
on glass...



OH!

WHAAT?  
ALL BY  
YOUR-  
SELF?

HEY, YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
TO HANG  
OUT WITH ME.  
GO SWIM!  
I'LL STAY  
HERE AND  
WATCH OUR  
STUFF.



I PUT  
DISINFECTANT  
ON IT, BUT  
MAKE SURE  
YOU GO SEE  
A DOCTOR  
LATER.

YESSIR...  
THANK  
YOU,  
SIR...

AND NO  
MORE  
SWIMMING  
FOR YOU  
TODAY,  
MISSY.

I'M  
COOL  
WITH  
HANGING  
OUT.

I...  
I'M  
FINE!!

I DON'T  
NEED ANY  
COMPANY  
!!

WAAAAA  
WAAAAA

Actually,  
I  
ALREADY  
SWAM,  
AND MY  
MAIN THING  
TODAY WAS  
GETTING  
A TAN  
ANYWAY.

POOR  
RISA'S  
GOING  
TO BE  
BORED  
ALL BY  
HER  
LONE-  
SOME.

WHY  
DON'T YOU  
STAY AND  
KEEP HER  
COMPANY,  
ÔTANI?

WHADJA  
SAY?!

A-AND  
ANYWAY,  
IF YOU THINK  
A SUNTAN'S  
GONNA MAKE  
THAT DINKY  
LITTLE BODY  
LOOK ANY  
BUFFER,  
YOU'RE SADLY  
MISTAKEN!!

I THINK  
I WILL!!

YOU GOT  
TIME TO  
LIE ON THE  
BEACH, GO  
SWIM AND  
BUILD YOUR  
MUSCLES!!

NO  
THANK  
YOU!!  
I'M FINE!!  
I LIKE  
BEING  
ALONE!!

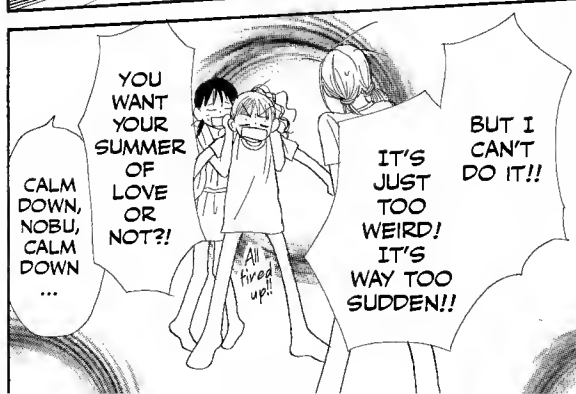
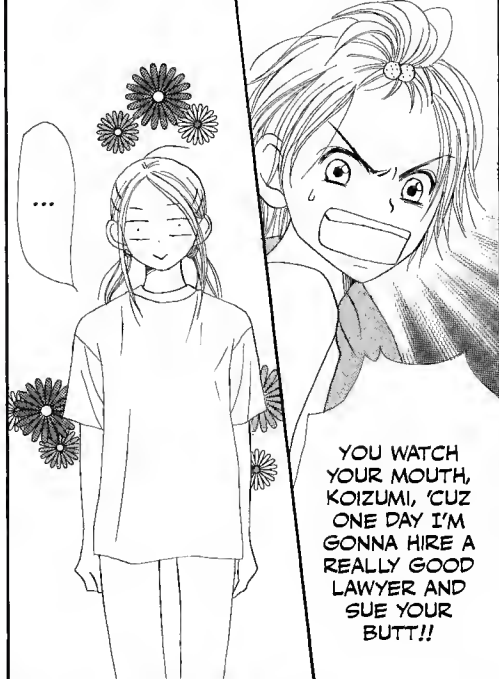
NO IT  
ISN'T!!

LIAR.  
HEY,  
I TOLD  
YOU,  
IT'S  
COOL.

SO YOU  
AND RISA  
CAN GET  
NICE AND  
TOASTY  
TOGETHER!

GREAT!

NOOOO!!





YOU'RE ALL **WATCHING** ME ALL THE TIME, AND IT'S MAKING ME REALLY NERVOUS, OKAY?

HEH?

IT'S LIKE...YOU'RE ALL WAITING FOR ME TO... OH, YOU KNOW. WELL IT'S MAKING ME FEEL REALLY SELF-CONSCIOUS!

...



I DO, I DO...

FINE, OKAY, I'LL GO FOR IT!

I'LL GO FOR IT, BUT ONLY IF YOU GUYS PROMISE TO STOP WATCHING ME ALL THE TIME!



UH...

I'LL TRY...

YOU CAN DO IT, RISA!

SO PROMISE ME YOU'LL GO FOR IT.

WE WON'T WATCH YOU.

...FINE.



THEY'RE ALL ROOTING FOR ME...



"THE  
PERFECT  
TIME FOR  
ROMANCE."  
YEAH,  
RIGHT.

THIS ISN'T  
WORKING  
OUT AT  
ALL...

WELL.



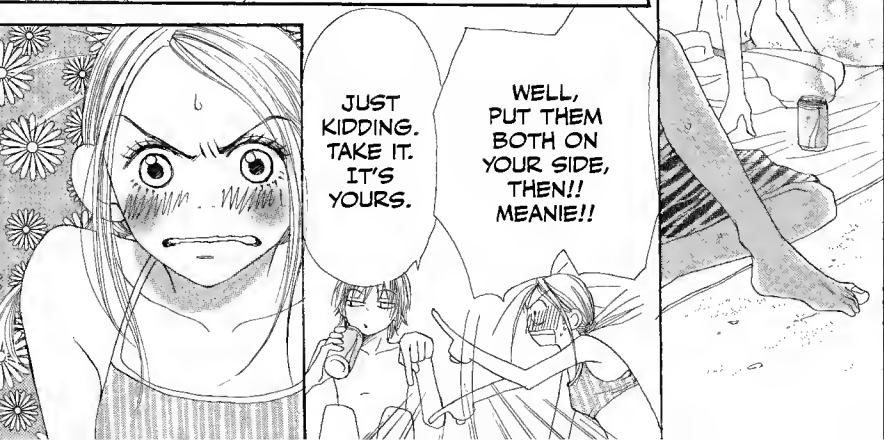
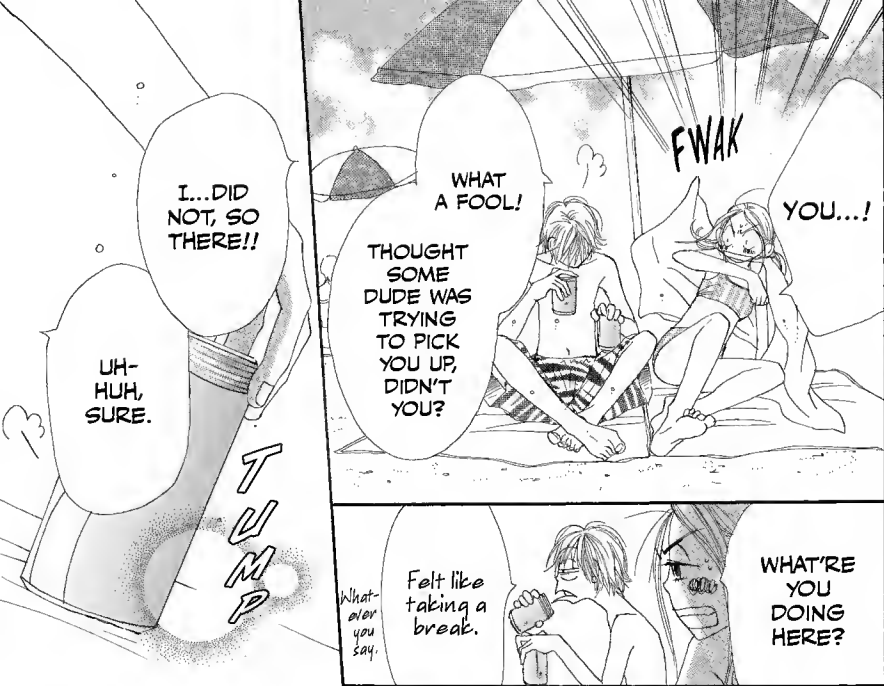
I'VE  
ONLY GOT  
MYSELF  
TO BLAME  
FOR THAT.



I AM  
SO  
LAME.

HEY  
BEAUTIFUL,  
YOU  
ALONE?

MIND  
IF I JOIN  
YOU FOR  
A WHILE?

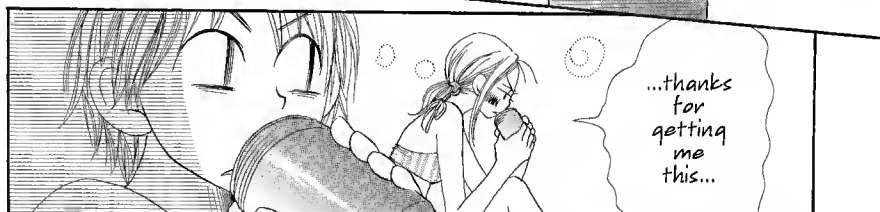




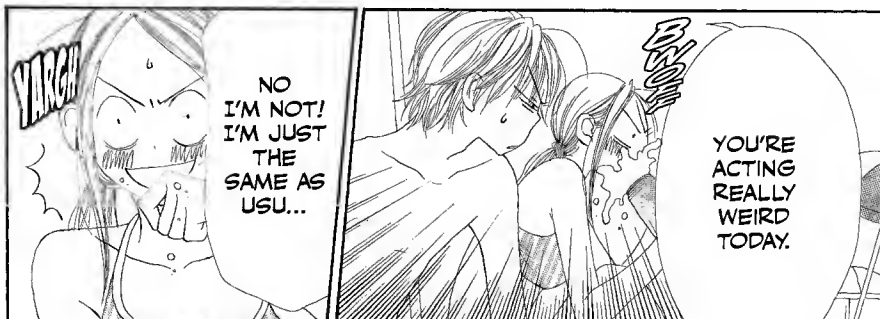
THIS  
WAS JUST  
PAYBACK  
FOR WHAT  
YOU SAID.

I'M THE  
MEANIE?

...meanie...

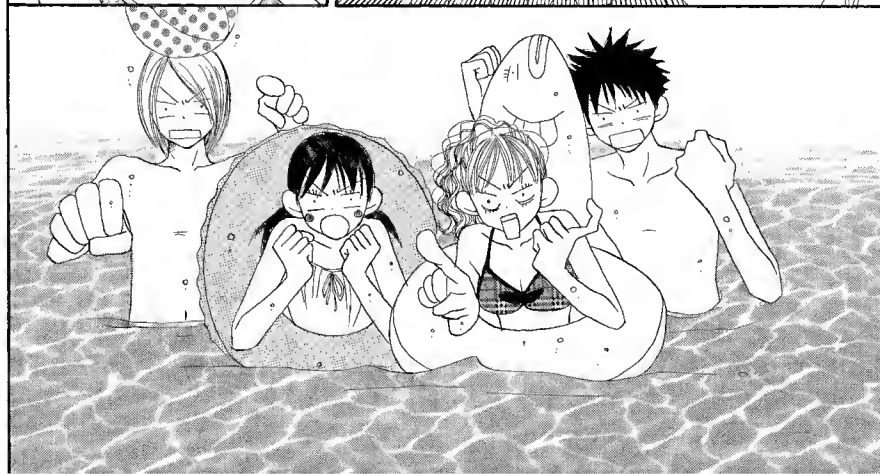


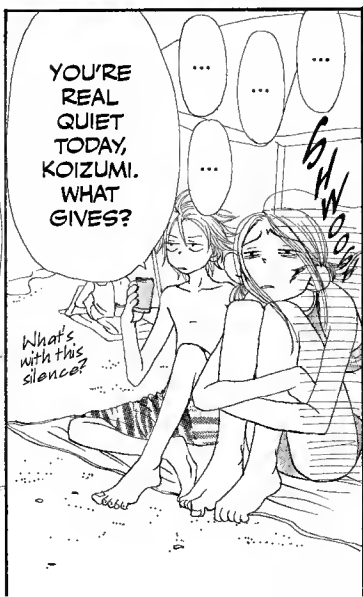
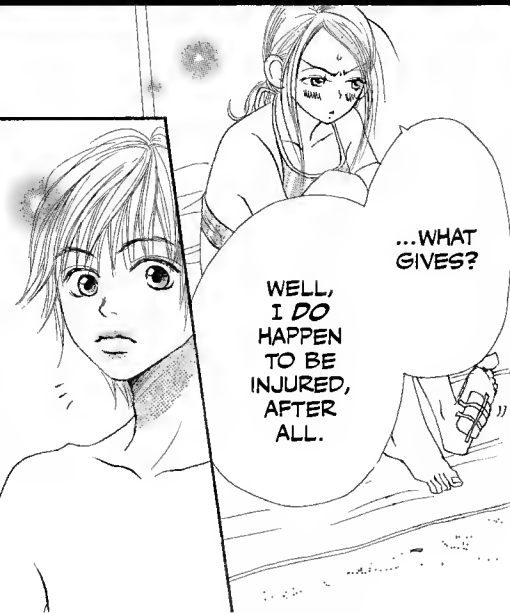
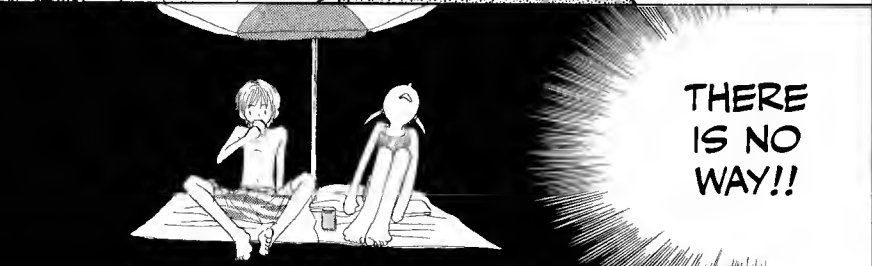
...thanks  
for  
getting  
me  
this...



NO  
I'M NOT!  
I'M JUST  
THE  
SAME AS  
USU...

YOU'RE  
ACTING  
REALLY  
WEIRD  
TODAY.







OH...

YOU  
WANT ME  
TO GO  
GET YOU  
SOME-  
THING  
FOR IT?

YOUR  
FOOT  
STILL  
HURT?



OKAY,  
SO  
LONG  
AS  
YOU'RE  
OKAY.

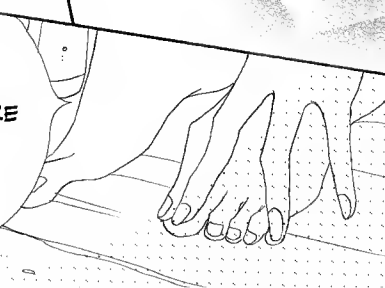

NAA...  
I'M  
OKAY.

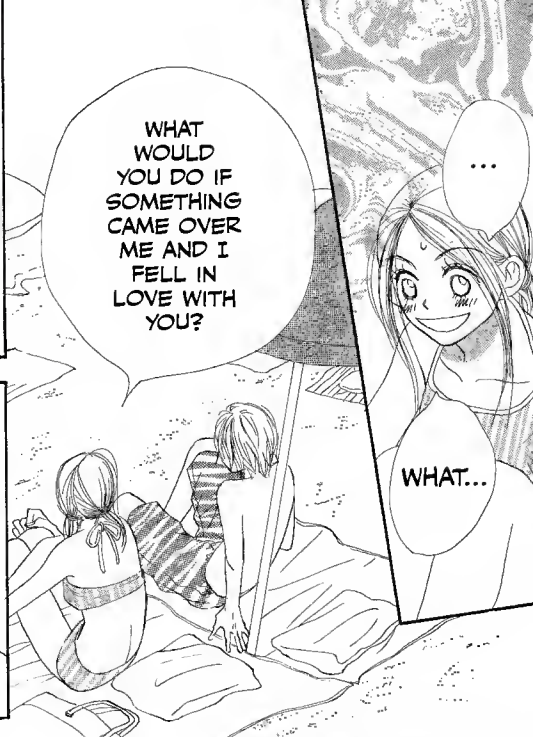
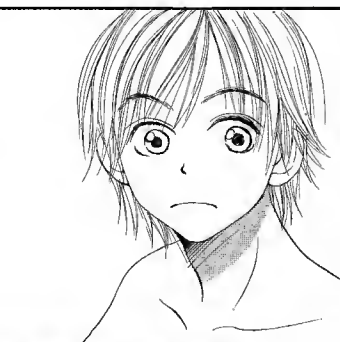
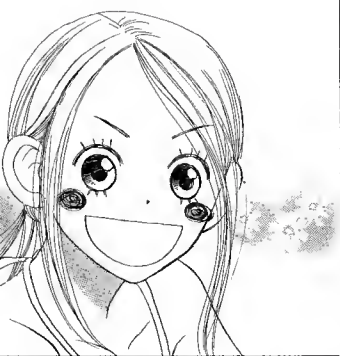


LIKE I  
DIDN'T  
KNOW  
THAT  
ALREADY?

...A  
GREAT  
GUY,  
ÔTANI.

...YOU'RE  
...





WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU DO IF  
SOMETHING  
CAME OVER  
ME AND I  
FELL IN  
LOVE WITH  
YOU?

...

WHAT...

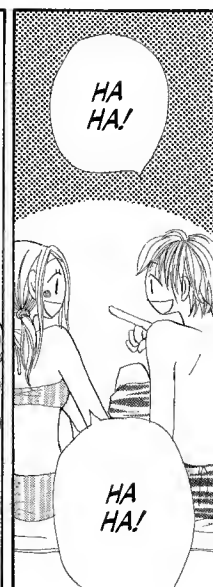


DO ME  
A FAVOR.  
DON'T  
GROSS  
ME OUT  
LIKE THAT.



HA!  
HA HA  
HA HA!

HA!  
HA HA  
HA HA!



HA  
HA!

HA  
HA!

YOU'LL  
DIE OF OLD  
AGE BEFORE  
ANYBODY  
EVER ASKS  
YOU OUT,  
JUMBO-  
GAL.

HUH?  
WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?

LOOK,  
REMEMBER  
THAT BET  
WE MADE?  
YOU GOT  
ANYBODY  
LINED UP?

JUST  
SHUT UP,  
SHRIMPY.

NOT  
AS LONG  
AS YOU'RE  
ASKING ME  
STUFF LIKE  
THAT, NO.

I KNEW  
ALL ALONG  
IT WOULD  
NEVER  
WORK OUT.

IT'S  
TOTALLY  
HOPE-  
LESS.

I  
KNEW  
IT.



HU HNGH?!

I'M JUST...  
TOO BIG...  
FOR MY OWN GOOD...

Urrrrrrrr



BIG DEAL,  
I CALL HER  
THAT ALL  
THE TIME!!

YOU  
CALLED  
HER  
JUMBO-  
GAL?!

ENOUGH!!

ME?!  
I DIDN'T  
DO ANY-  
THING!  
SHE  
JUST...

HE'S  
RIGHT.

HANG  
ON A  
SECOND!!  
SHE  
CALLED  
ME  
"SHRIMPY,"  
OKAY?!

POOR  
RISA...

B-BUT...  
IT'S *NOT*  
MY FAULT...  
THAT I'M  
A JUMBO-  
GAL...

*GIRLS  
IN LOVE  
ARE  
ALWAYS  
VERY  
EMOTIONAL,  
YOU  
DOPE!!*

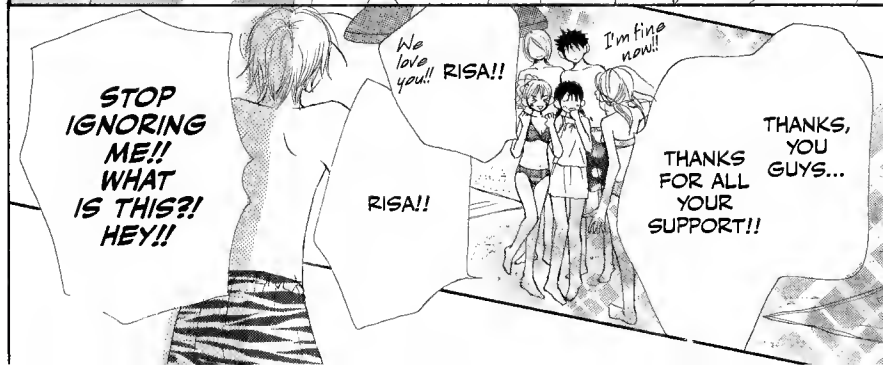
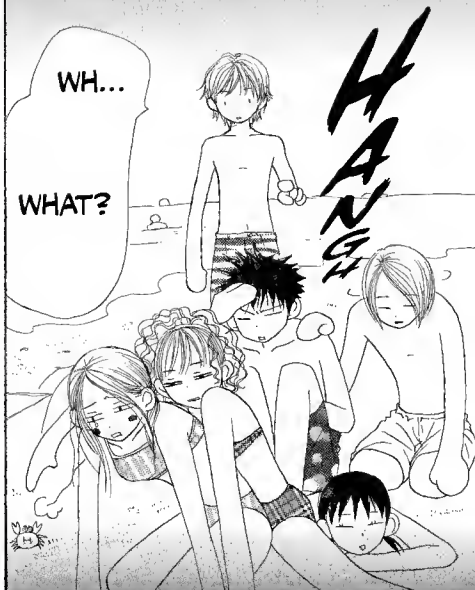
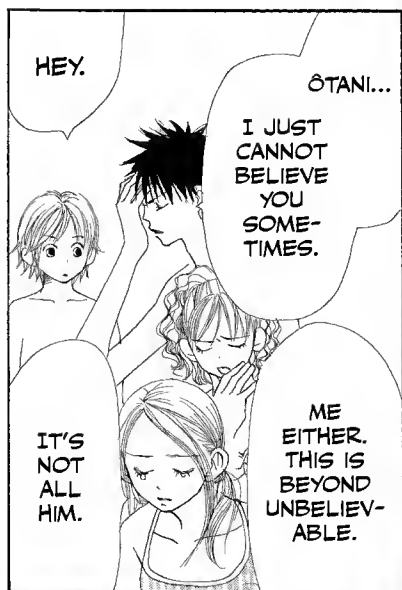
I SWEAR  
SOME-  
THING'S  
WRONG  
WITH HER  
TODAY.  
SHE'S BEEN  
WEIRD  
ALL DAY.

OMIGOD,  
NOBU!!

HE  
CALLS  
ME THAT  
ALL THE  
TIME,  
AND IT'S  
NO BIG  
DEAL.

BUT  
TODAY,  
FOR SOME  
REASON,  
I CAN'T  
TAKE IT...





blah

blah

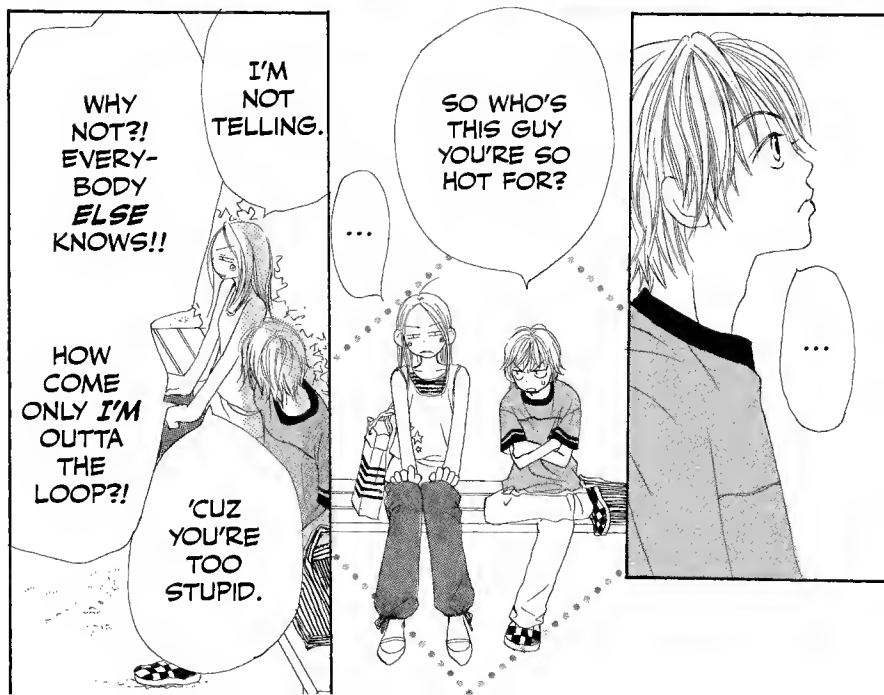
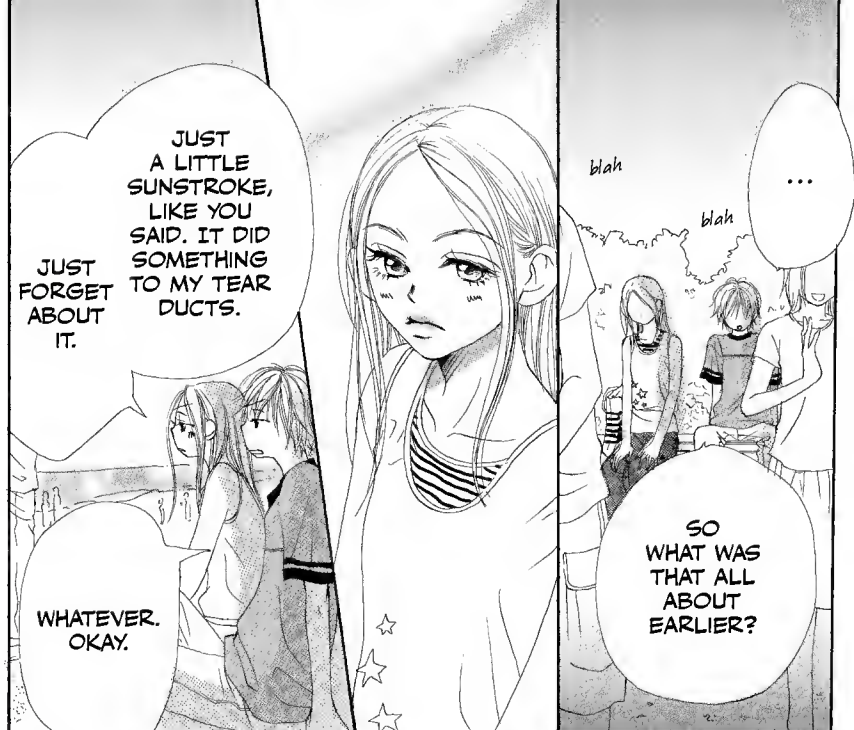
blah

OKAY!

LET'S ALL  
GO GET  
SOME ICE  
CREAM!

COME  
ON,  
RISA!

I  
SAID,  
STOP  
IGNOR-  
ING  
ME!!



SO  
OBVIOUSLY,  
IT'S NOT  
GOING TO  
WORK OUT  
BETWEEN  
US JUST  
LIKE THAT.

AND  
THIS IS  
WHAT  
I'M LIKE.

WHAT THE  
HECK'S THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO MEAN?!

WELL,  
THIS IS  
WHAT  
HE'S LIKE.

AND  
THAT'S  
WHY YOU  
STARTED  
CRYING  
WHEN I  
CALLED  
YOU  
"JUMBO-  
GAL"!

UH...!

THE DUDE  
YOU'RE  
ALL HOT  
FOR IS  
SHORTER  
THAN YOU!  
RIGHT?

BUT I  
LOVE  
HIM.  
I CAN'T  
HELP IT.

BINGO.  
BULL'S-  
EYE,  
I CAN  
TELL.

NO...!

I...!

OHH!

DUH.  
I GOT  
IT!



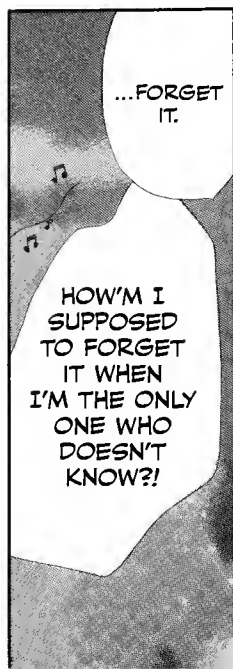
YOU HAVE  
LOTS OF  
OTHER  
THINGS  
GOING  
FOR YOU,  
KOIZUMI.

SO STOP  
OBSESSING  
AND JUST  
GO FOR IT.  
TELL THE  
DUDE.



NO POINT  
CRYING  
ABOUT  
YOUR HEIGHT,  
'CUZ THAT'S  
BEYOND  
YOUR  
CONTROL  
ANYWAY.

LISTEN  
TO ME,  
DOPEY.

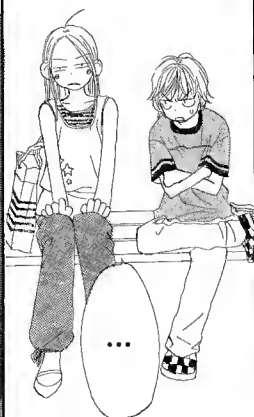


...FORGET  
IT.

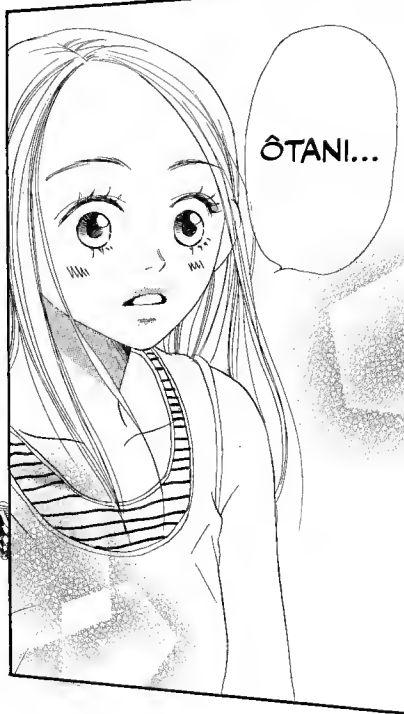
HOW'M I  
SUPPOSED  
TO FORGET  
IT WHEN  
I'M THE ONLY  
ONE WHO  
DOESN'T  
KNOW?!

*Anybody  
I know?*

SO  
WHO  
IS IT,  
ANYWAY?



...



ÔTANI...



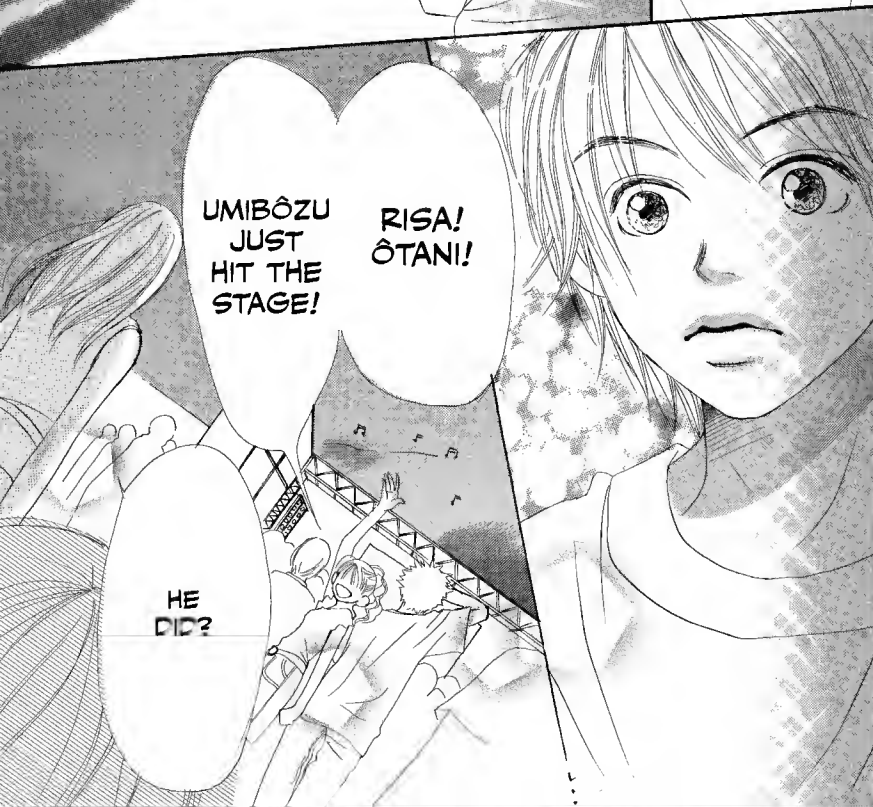
LET'S  
JUST  
FORGET  
IT, OKAY?

COME ON,  
LET'S GO.  
THE SHOW'S  
ABOUT TO  
START.



OH,  
YOU'LL  
FIND OUT  
SOON  
ENOUGH.

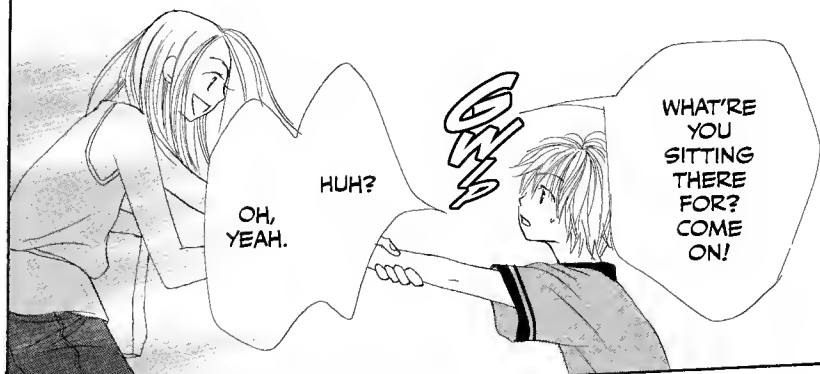
WHADDAYA  
MEAN,  
"SOON  
ENOUGH"?!



UMIBÔZU  
JUST  
HIT THE  
STAGE!

RISA!  
ÔTANI!

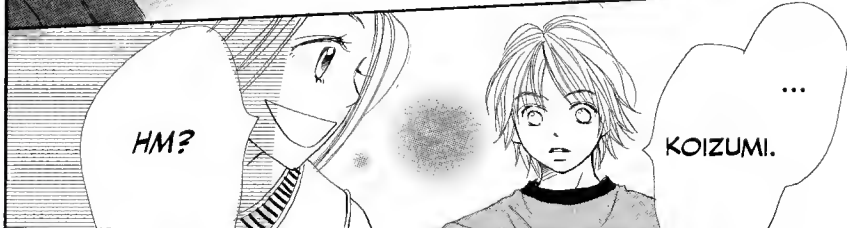
HE  
DID?



OH,  
YEAH.

HUH?

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
SITTING  
THERE  
FOR?  
COME  
ON!



HM?

...  
KOIZUMI.

I'LL STOP  
OBSESSING  
AND GO  
FOR IT.  
I'M GOING  
TO TELL  
YOU, DUDE.  
**JUST WAIT!**

OKAY,  
I HEARD  
YOU.

ULP

HOW'S  
YOUR  
FOOT?

HOP

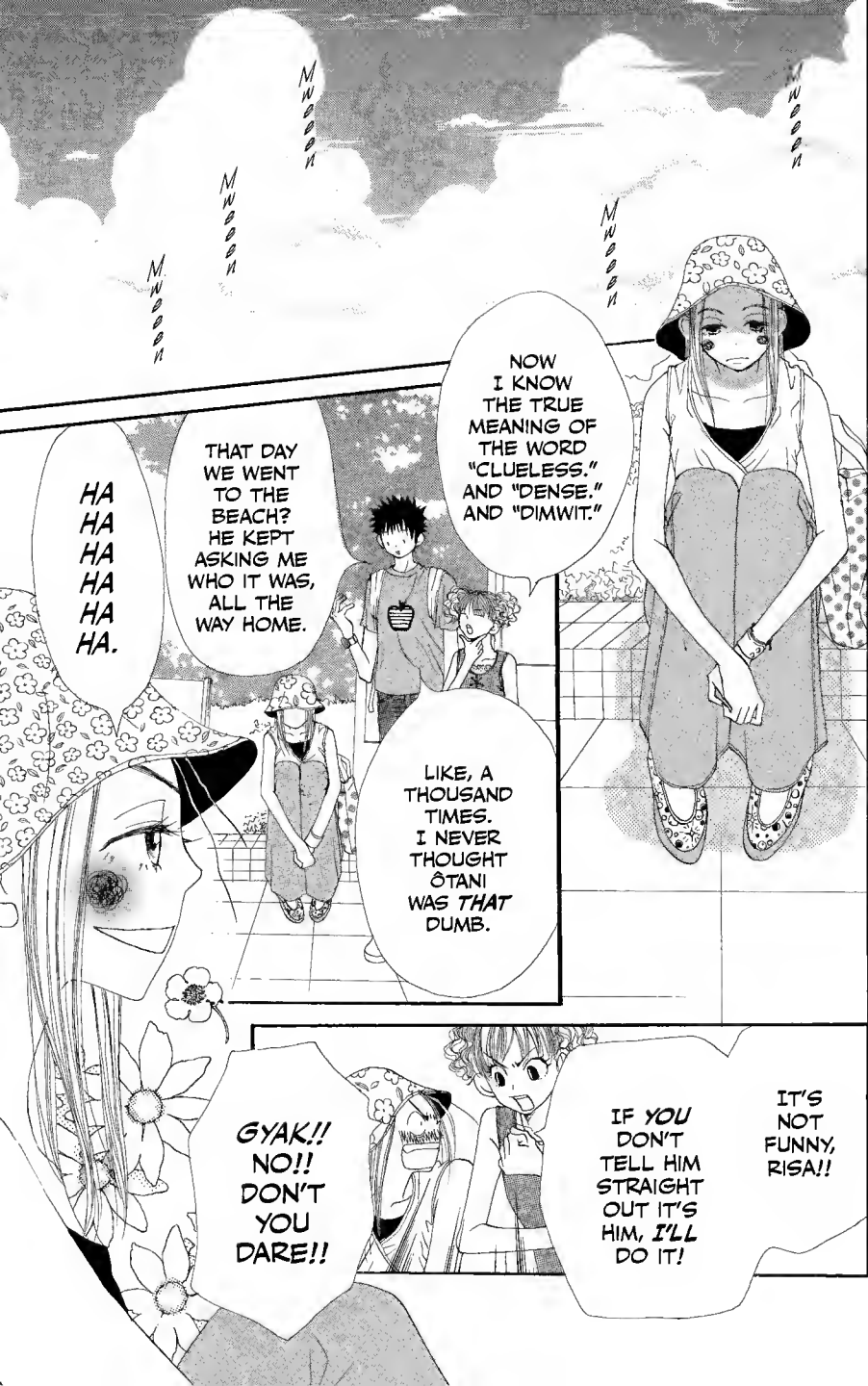
HOP

OWWW-  
WWCH!!  
I FORGOT  
ALL  
ABOUT  
IT!

WHAT  
A TOTAL  
DORK.



## CHAPTER 14



MNOON

MNOON

MNOON

MNOON

MNOON

HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA.

THAT DAY  
WE WENT  
TO THE  
BEACH?  
HE KEPT  
ASKING ME  
WHO IT WAS,  
ALL THE  
WAY HOME.

NOW  
I KNOW  
THE TRUE  
MEANING OF  
THE WORD  
"CLUELESS."  
AND "DENSE."  
AND "DIMWIT."

LIKE, A  
THOUSAND  
TIMES.  
I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
ÔTANI  
WAS THAT  
DUMB.

GYAK!!  
NO!!  
DON'T  
YOU  
DARE!!

IF YOU  
DON'T  
TELL HIM  
STRAIGHT  
OUT IT'S  
HIM, I'LL  
DO IT!

IT'S  
NOT  
FUNNY,  
RISA!!

LISTEN  
TO ME,  
RISA.



BY  
THE TIME  
YOU'RE  
READY,  
SUMMER  
VACATION'S  
GONNA  
BE OVER!!

YOU'LL  
"WORK  
YOUR  
WAY  
UP TO  
IT"?!

SO,  
FINE...  
I MEAN,  
WHY DOES  
IT HAVE  
TO BE THE  
SUMMER  
...?



I'LL  
GO  
FOR  
IT!

I'LL  
WORK  
MY WAY  
UP TO IT,  
OKAY?  
I WILL!

ÔTANI  
TOLD ME  
THE SAME  
THING,  
ACTUALLY  
...

...WITHOUT  
REALIZING  
HE WAS  
"THE  
DUDE,"  
THAT  
DOPE.

STOP  
OBSESS-  
ING AND  
JUST GO  
FOR IT.  
TELL THE  
DUDE.



I JUST  
WANT  
YOU TO  
BE HAPPY,  
AND THE  
SOONER  
THAT  
HAPPENS,  
THE  
BETTER.

I'M NOT  
TRYING  
TO GET  
YOU GUYS  
TOGETHER  
FOR  
MY OWN  
JOLLIES,  
OKAY?



NOBU...



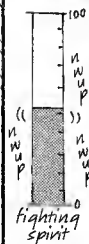
WELL,  
WATCH  
OUT!

'CUZ WHEN  
RISA  
KOIZUMI  
GOES  
FOR IT...

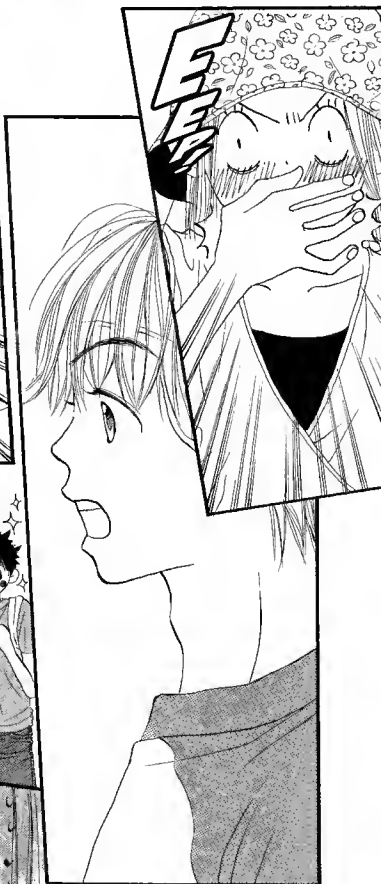
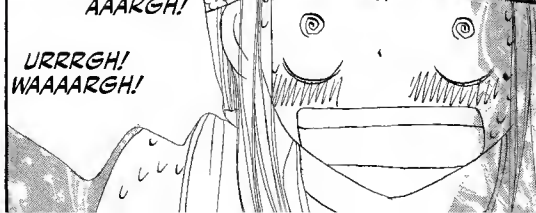
...SHE  
GOES  
FOR  
IT.

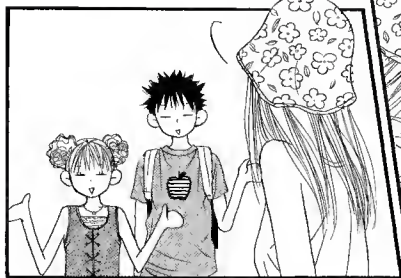
SHE  
GOES  
ALL  
OUT

...

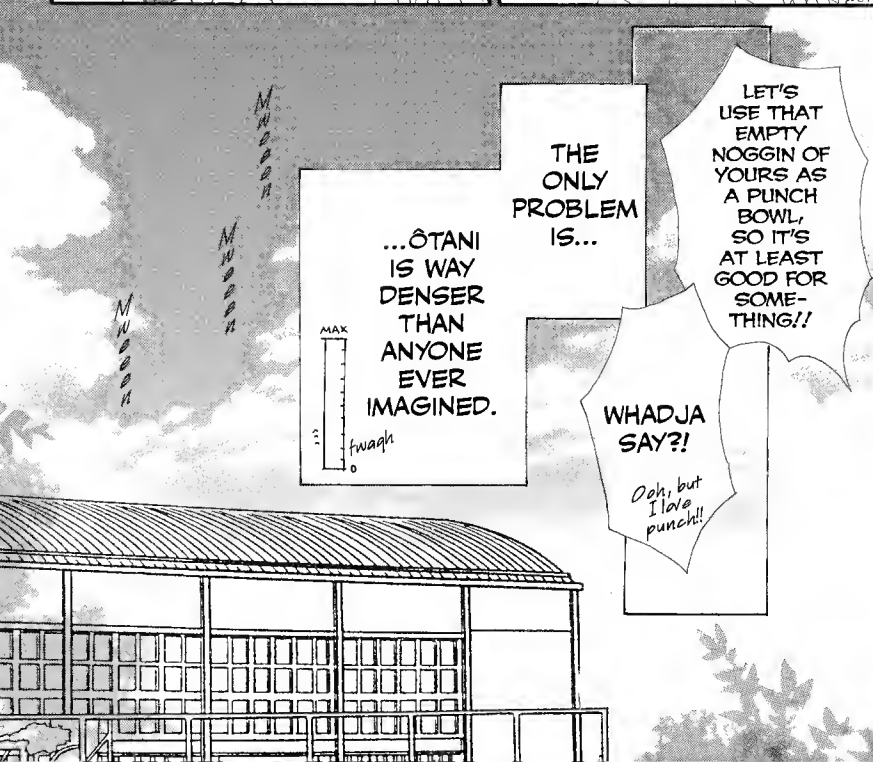






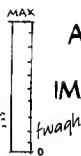


IT'S  
YAMAMOTO,  
THAT  
FIRST-YEAR  
WHO JUST  
JOINED!!



THE  
ONLY  
PROBLEM  
IS...

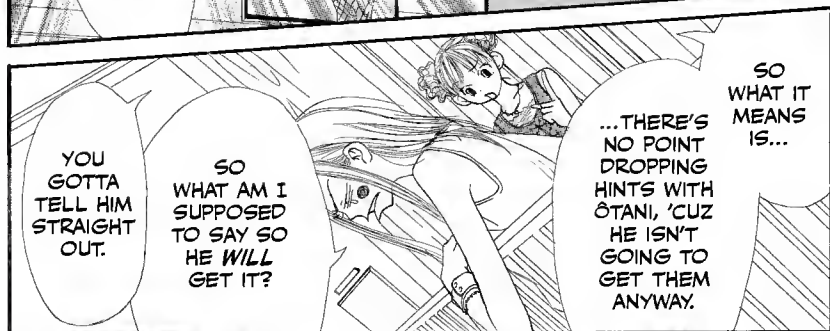
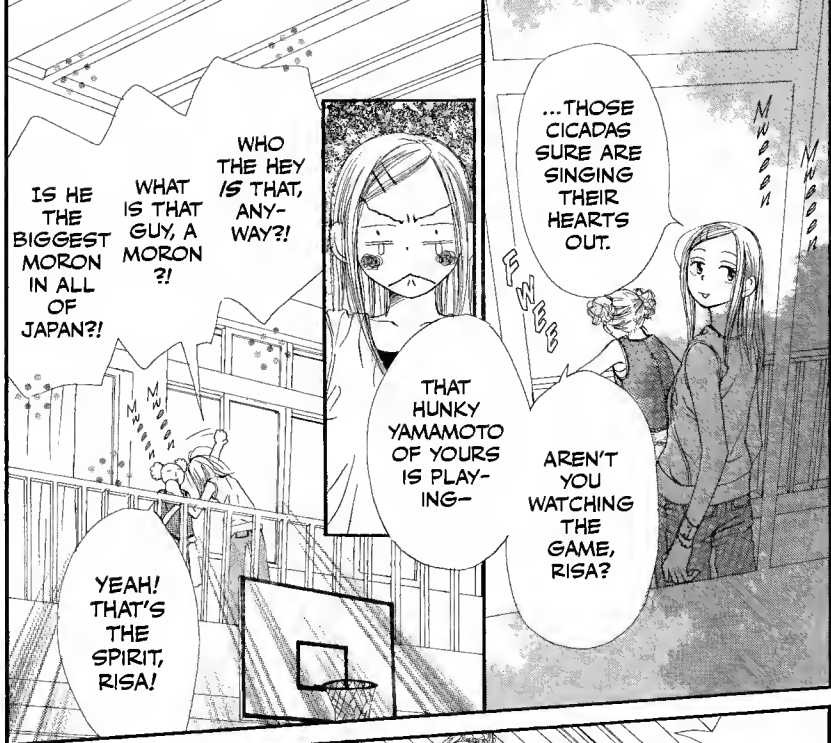
...ÔTANI  
IS WAY  
DENSER  
THAN  
ANYONE  
EVER  
IMAGINED.

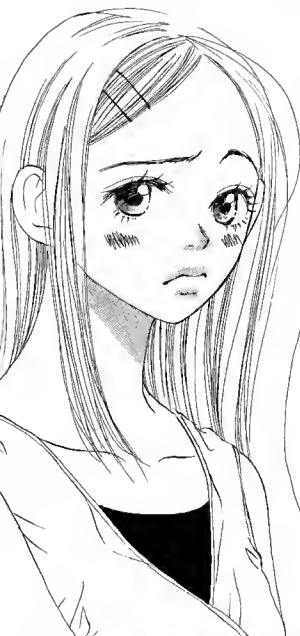


LET'S  
USE THAT  
EMPTY  
NOGGIN OF  
YOURS AS  
A PUNCH  
BOWL,  
SO IT'S  
AT LEAST  
GOOD FOR  
SOME-  
THING!!

WHADJA  
SAY?!

Oeh, but  
I love  
punch!!





ONCE SUMMER  
VACATION'S  
OVER, THERE'S  
THE SCHOOL  
FESTIVAL,  
AND THEN OUR  
CLASS TRIP...  
IT'S ONE EVENT  
AFTER THE  
OTHER.

SO IF YOU  
JUST STAND  
THERE WITH  
YOUR MOUTH  
HANGING  
OPEN, SOME-  
ONE ELSE  
IS GONNA  
GRAB HIM  
FOR SURE.



LET'S NOT  
FORGET  
THAT OTANI'S  
PRETTY  
POPULAR  
WITH THE  
LADIES,  
OKAY?

There  
is no  
way...



...

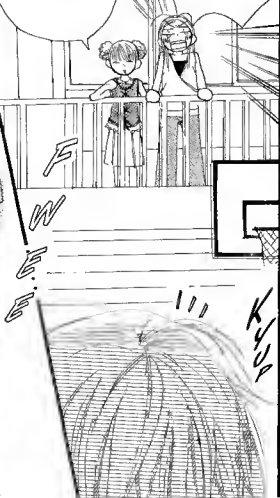
TELL  
HIM  
STRAIGHT  
OUT,  
HMM?



I'LL HELP  
YOU, BUT  
YOU HAVE  
TO HUSTLE  
YOURSELF,  
RISA.

Okay  
okay

GYAA-  
AAAH!!  
SOME-  
BODY  
HELP ME,  
PLEEEEEEZE  
!!



fidget

THERE'S  
SOME-  
THING  
I WANT  
TO TELL  
YOU...

DO YOU  
HAVE A  
MOMENT?

I KNOW THAT'S  
PROBABLY THE  
ONLY WAY TO GET  
MY FEELINGS  
ACROSS TO  
THAT LUNKHEAD,  
BUT STILL...

Well,  
yeah,  
but...

YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO SAID  
HAVING US  
AROUND  
PUTS  
ALL THIS  
PRESSURE  
ON YOU,  
RIGHT?

START OUT  
LIKE THAT,  
'CUZ WHAT  
YOU WANT  
IS TO BE  
ALONE  
TOGETHER.

OKAY,  
BUT ME  
**THEN** AND  
ME **NOW**  
ARE TWO  
DIFFERENT  
PEOPLE,  
EMOTIONALLY  
SPEAKING!!

*Like at  
that  
Umibōzu  
show.*

WHAT'S  
THE BIG  
DEAL?  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
ALONE  
WITH ŌTANI  
TONS OF  
TIMES.

WHAAT?!  
JUST  
HIM AND  
ME?!

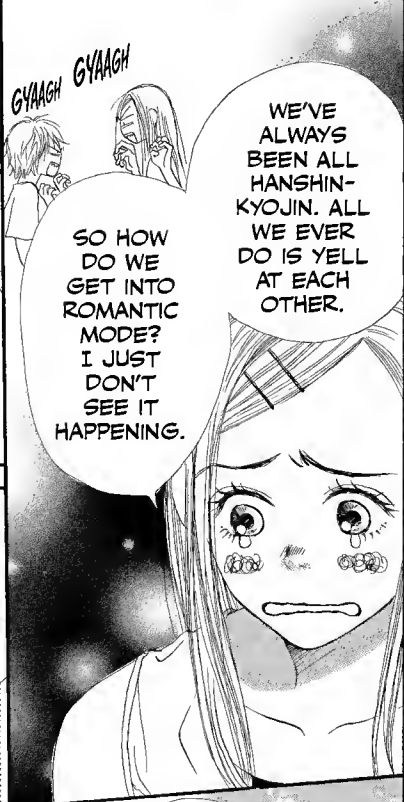


Make it happen...?

Like, how...?

IT DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN, YOU **MAKE IT HAPPEN!!**

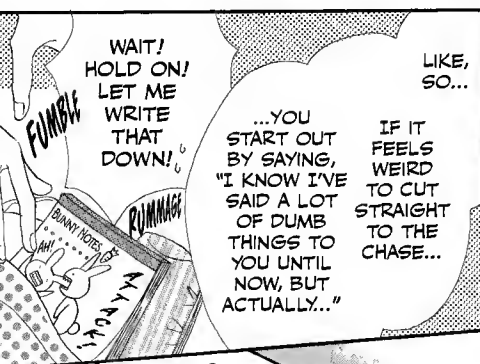
DO YOU WANT TO BE ALL KYOJIN FOR EVER?!



GYAAGH GYAAGH

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALL HANSHIN-KYOJIN. ALL WE EVER DO IS YELL AT EACH OTHER.

SO HOW DO WE GET INTO ROMANTIC MODE? I JUST DON'T SEE IT HAPPENING.



WAIT! HOLD ON! LET ME WRITE THAT DOWN!

LIKE, SO...

...YOU START OUT BY SAYING, "I KNOW I'VE SAID A LOT OF DUMB THINGS TO YOU UNTIL NOW, BUT ACTUALLY..."

IF IT FEELS WEIRD TO CUT STRAIGHT TO THE CHASE...



HUH?!

YOU CHANGED IT! THIS IS LONGER!

THAT'S FINE, JUST WRITE IT DOWN!

Okay...

"I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW I FELT BEFORE, SO I KNOW I'VE SAID ALL KINDS OF MEAN AND STUPID THINGS TO YOU, BUT..."

...OKAY, WHATEVER, SO ANYWAY, YOU SAY—

WELL, YEAH, OR I'LL FORGET!

WRITE IT DOWN ...?

**GYAK!!**

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GUYS  
DOING?

SNEAKING  
AROUND  
BEHIND  
MY BACK  
AGAIN...

"ALL  
KINDS  
OF MEAN  
AND  
STUPID  
THINGS  
TO YOU,"  
AND  
THEN?

N-NO,  
WE'RE  
NOT!  
NOT AT  
ALL!

RIGHT,  
NOBU?

THIS IS  
YOUR  
CHANCE,  
SILLY!  
C'MON!

HOW  
COME  
I'M LEFT  
OUT  
OF THE  
ACTION  
AGAIN?

I'LL  
TELL  
YOU  
LATER.

OKAY.  
HEY,  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

IF YOU KEEP  
PUTTING IT OFF,  
IT'LL NEVER  
HAPPEN!! COME  
ON, DARLIN',  
WE'RE GOING!!

WH-  
WHAT?!  
YOU  
MEAN,  
RIGHT  
NOW?!

**ÔTANI!!**

...



HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO ME?! YOU CLUELESS, INSENSITIVE—

UNGH!

DON'T DO THAT, YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT.

icky yucky



DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU...

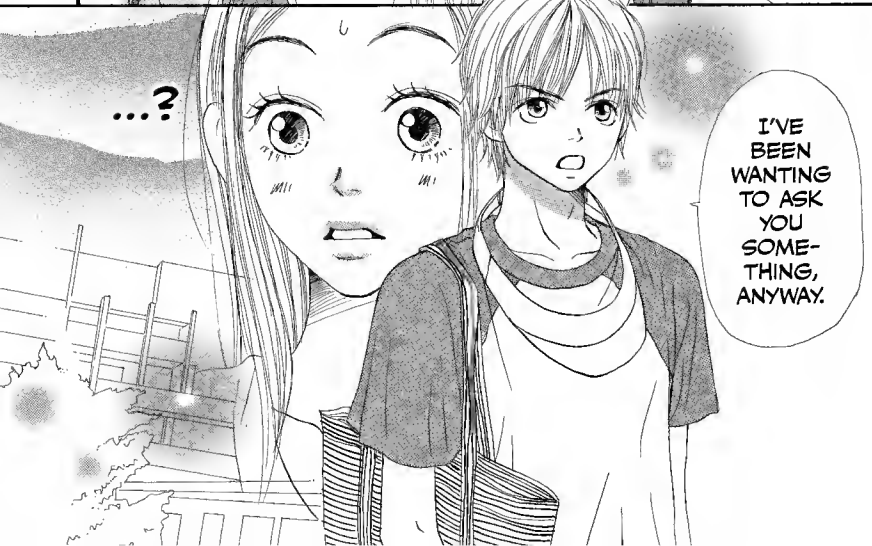
fidget



...SO LET'S TALK.

...

C'MON, BABY, LET'S GO.

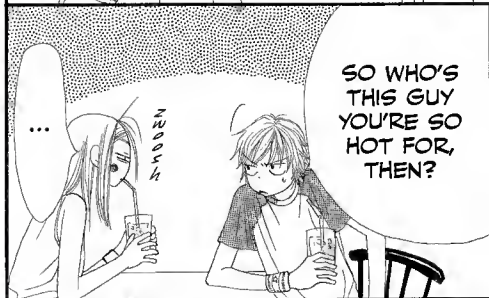


...?

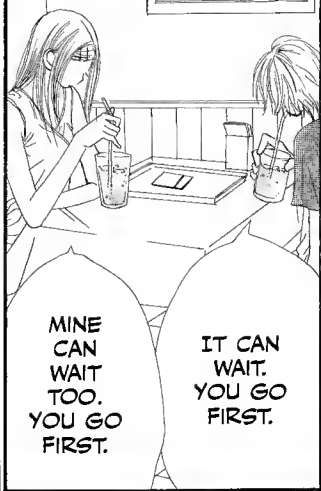
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, ANYWAY.



...SO  
WHAT'D  
YOU  
WANT TO  
ASK ME?

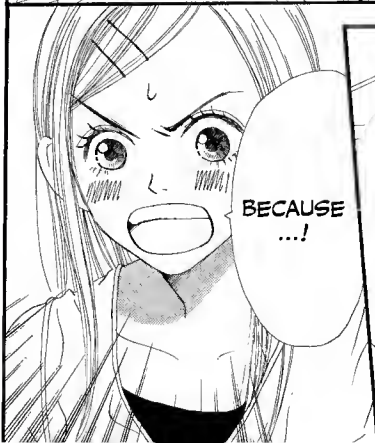


SO WHO'S  
THIS GUY  
YOU'RE SO  
HOT FOR,  
THEN?



MINE  
CAN  
WAIT  
TOO.  
YOU GO  
FIRST.

IT CAN  
WAIT.  
YOU GO  
FIRST.



BECAUSE  
...!



WHY  
CAN'T  
YOU LET  
ME IN  
ON IT?!

I SWEAR,  
I'M THE  
ONLY ONE  
WHO  
DOESN'T  
KNOW.

HEY, YOU LISTENING TO ME?

A A A G H...

...I CAN'T SAY IT. I JUST CAN'T.

HEY, YOU LISTENING TO ME?

A A A G H...

...I CAN'T SAY IT. I JUST CAN'T.

HEY, YOU LISTENING TO ME?

A A A G H ...

...I CAN'T SAY IT. I JUST CAN'T.

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
THE ONE!!



HEY!  
I'M  
TALKING  
TO YA!!



HEY!  
I'M  
TALKING  
TO YA!!



HEY!  
I'M  
TALKING  
TO YA!!

NO, **YOU** BRING IT ON!!

ALL RIGHT, BRING IT ON!!

I asked you a question!

T W W W W

NO, **YOU** BRING IT ON!!

ALL RIGHT, BRING IT ON!!

I asked you a question!

T H W

NO, **YOU** BRING IT ON!!

ALL RIGHT, BRING IT ON!!

I asked you a question!

T H W

**YOU  
CAN  
DO IT,  
LET'S  
GO!!**

**I CAN'T  
GO ON  
LIKE THIS  
FOREVER.**

**DO IT,  
RISA.**

**YOU  
CAN  
DO IT,  
LET'S  
GO!!**

**I CAN'T  
GO ON  
LIKE THIS  
FOREVER.**

**DO IT,  
RISA.**

**YOU  
CAN  
DO IT,  
LET'S  
GO!!**

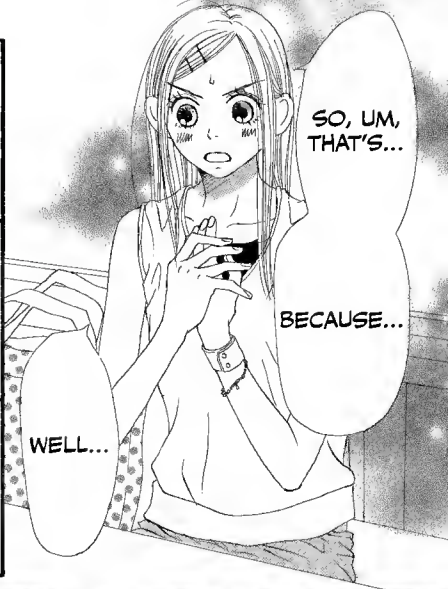
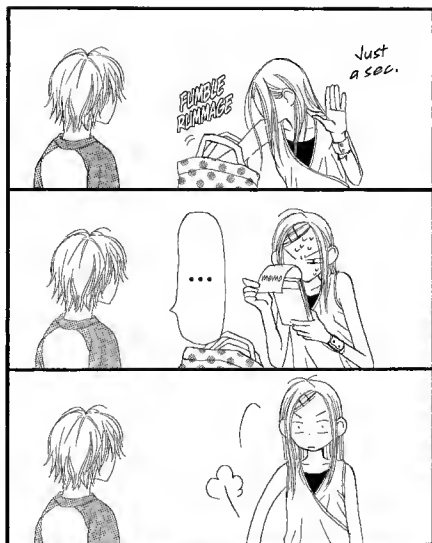
**I CAN'T  
GO ON  
LIKE THIS  
FOREVER.**

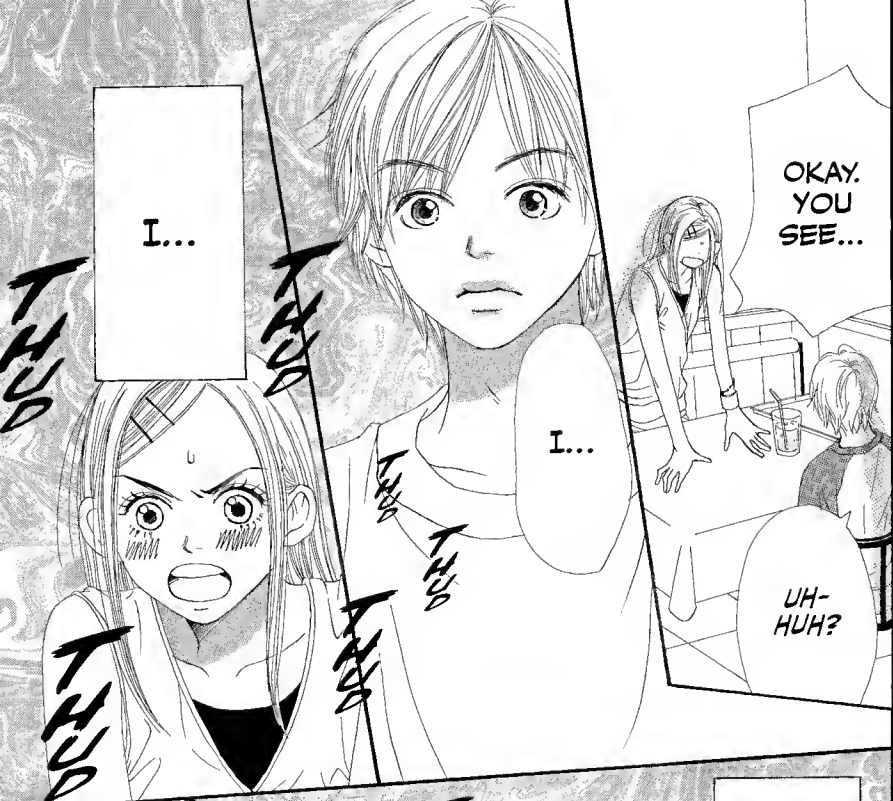
**DO IT,  
RISA.**

**YOU  
CAN  
DO IT,  
LET'S  
GO!!**

**I CAN'T  
GO ON  
LIKE THIS  
FOREVER.**

**DO IT,  
RISA.**





I...

I...

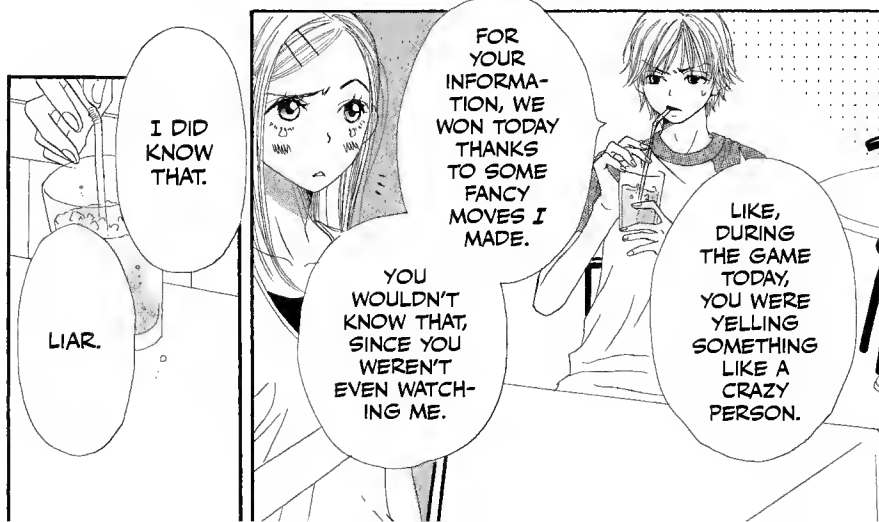
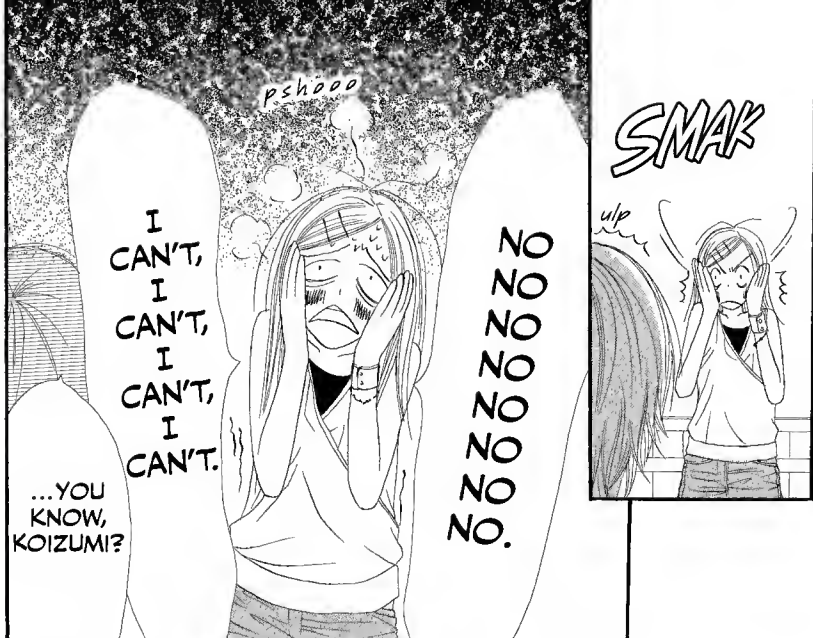
OKAY.  
YOU  
SEE...

UH-  
HUH?



I  
LOVE  
...

I  
LOVE  
...



8 ②

I'm starting to seem like someone who's got a poop fetish or something.

The number of times poop has come up in this space is... well, a lot.

The first edition of Vol. 4 came with special stickers, and when I submitted the designs I sneaked a poop in there, but it was rejected.

Well, of course. Where would you stick a poop?

ha ha ha ha I really must seem like I have a poop fetish, doesn't it?

Poop is what makes a man.

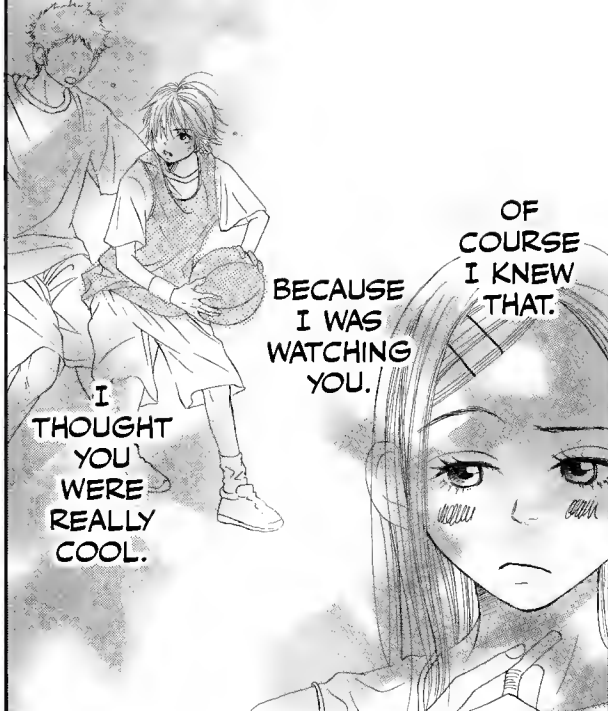
I hereby appoint you Minister of Poop!

What am I saying?!

Let's zip those lips.



...I haven't been drinking or anything, okay?



I  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
WERE  
REALLY  
COOL.

BECAUSE  
I WAS  
WATCHING  
YOU.

OF  
COURSE  
I KNEW  
THAT.



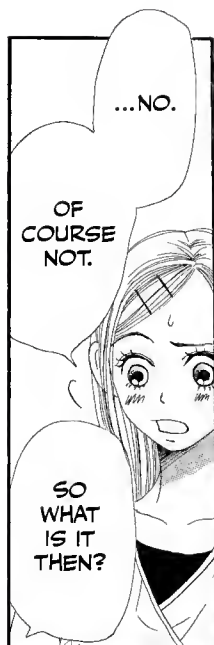
HUH?

IF IT'S  
STRESSING  
YOU OUT  
SO MUCH,  
TELL ME  
ABOUT IT.

MAYBE I  
CAN HELP  
YOU OUT,  
YOU KNOW?

HEY.

...



...NO.

OF  
COURSE  
NOT.

SO  
WHAT  
IS IT  
THEN?

ÔTANI...



OR WHAT,  
IS IT  
BECAUSE  
YOU THINK  
YOU CAN'T  
TRUST  
ME?



WHY'RE  
YOU  
PULLING  
YOUR  
HAIR  
OUT?

...

IT'S  
HOPE-  
LESS.


'CUZ  
THIS IS  
MAKING  
ME  
CRAZY...



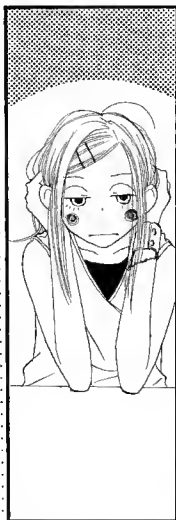
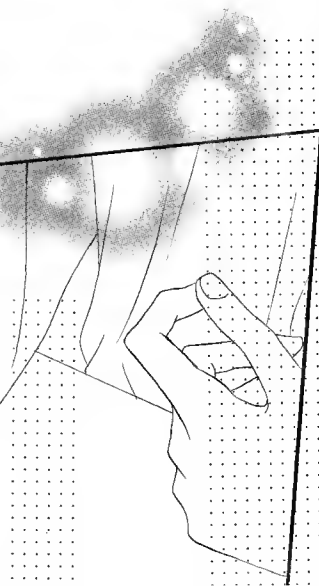
WE'RE  
PARTNERS,  
REMEMBER?  
WE'RE ALL  
HANSHIN-  
KYOJIN.

WHY  
CAN'T  
YOU  
TELL  
ME?

...



ONCE A  
COMEDY TEAM,  
ALWAYS A  
COMEDY TEAM,  
I GUESS.  
THAT'S HOW  
HE SEES US.



...YOU'RE  
REALLY  
CRAZY  
ABOUT  
THIS GUY?



...

OKAY.

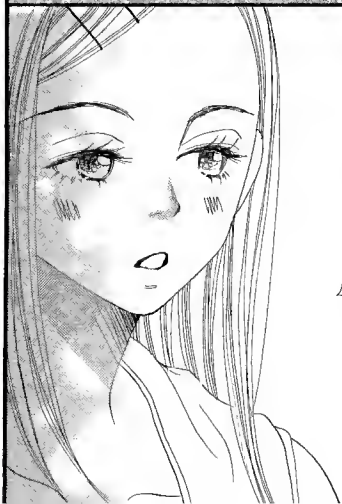
WHAT'S  
HE  
LIKE?

...



...

...YEAH.



HE'S  
STUPID,  
BUT HE'S  
A REALLY  
GREAT  
GUY.



STUPID.

HEH?



...COOL.

YEAH.

HE'S  
A LOT  
SHORTER  
THAN  
ME...

BUT  
I HARDLY  
EVEN  
NOTICE 'CUZ  
HE'S SUCH  
A GREAT  
GUY THAT  
IT DOESN'T  
MATTER.

...

YEAH.

AND HE'S  
ON OUR  
BASKET-  
BALL TEAM,  
RIGHT?

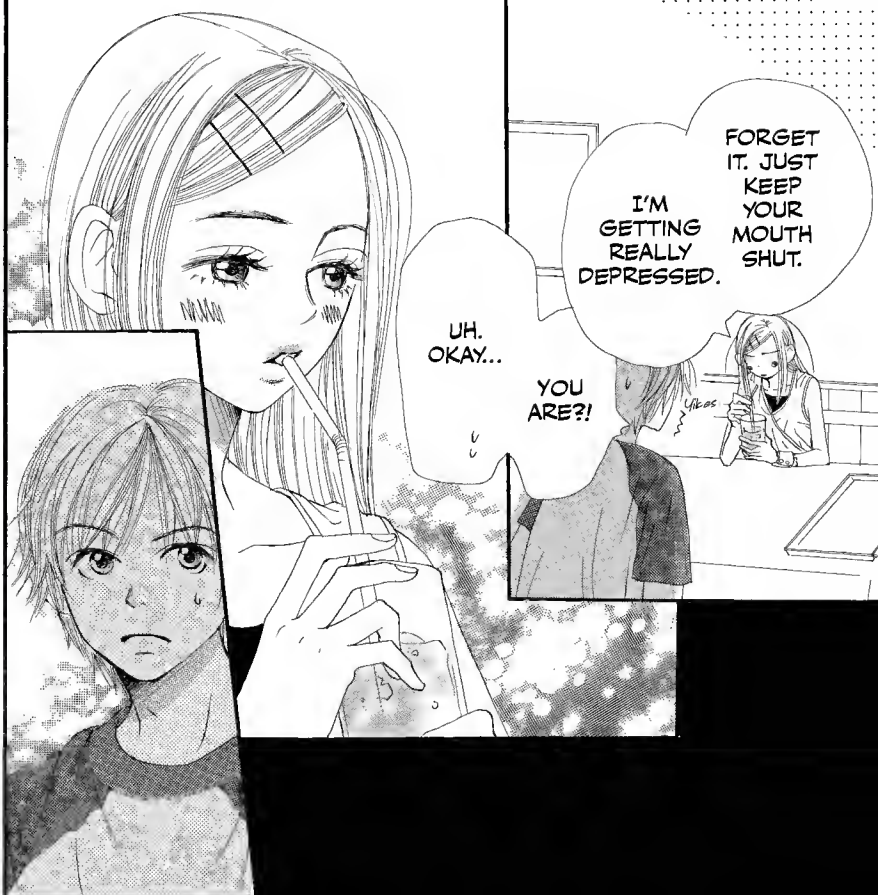
...YOU  
ARE  
SUCH A  
MORON.

WHADJA  
SAY?!

IKEDA'S  
PRETTY  
SHORT,  
NOW THAT  
I THINK  
ABOUT IT.

Is it  
him?



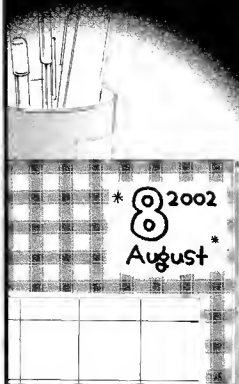


THIS  
GUY...

...IS  
BEYOND  
ALL  
HOPE.

ARGH.

I  
SWEAR...





I DON'T  
EVEN CARE  
ABOUT  
TELLING  
HIM ANY-  
MORE...

Ding  
Dong



YOU KNOW  
HOW YOU  
ALWAYS WANTED  
THE LION'S  
HEAD IN YOUR  
BATHROOM?  
THE ONE THAT  
SPOUTS WATER  
OUT OF ITS  
MOUTH INTO  
YOUR TUB?

That's  
what we  
got you!

AND WHEN  
I HEARD IT  
WAS YOUR  
BIRTHDAY TODAY,  
I PITCHED IN  
WITH NOBU  
SENPAI TO BUY  
YOU A PRESENT!  
IT'LL MAKE YOU  
FEEL LIKE A  
MOVIE STAR!

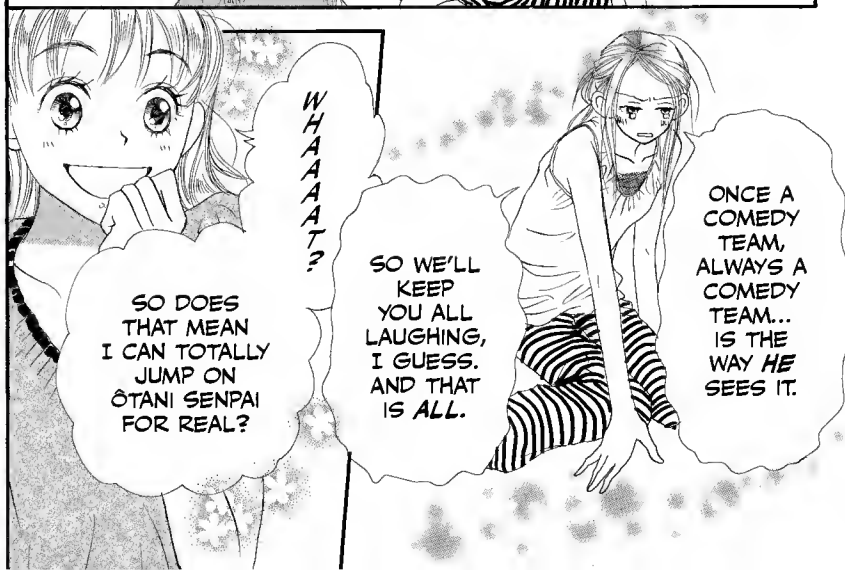
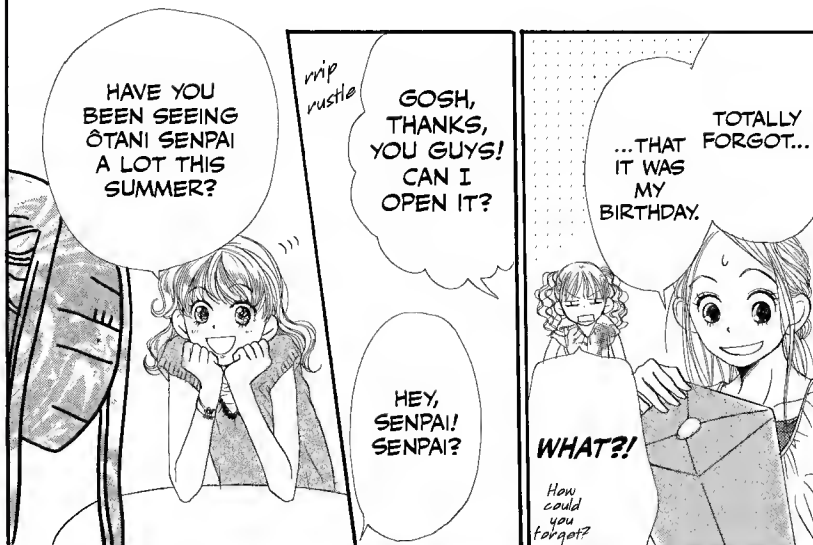
...REALLY?

WE RAN INTO  
EACH OTHER  
SHOPPING IN  
SHINSAIBASHI.  
RIGHT?

SO WHAT  
BRINGS  
YOU TWO  
HERE?

YUP!  
♡











BUT  
WHY UP  
THERE  
...?

YEAH,  
YOU KNOW  
HOW IT'S  
A PARKING  
LOT?

HUH?

WELL  
LISTEN,  
MEET ME  
AT 7:30  
UP ON  
THE ROOF  
OF THE  
STATION  
BUILDING.

ON THE  
ROOF?

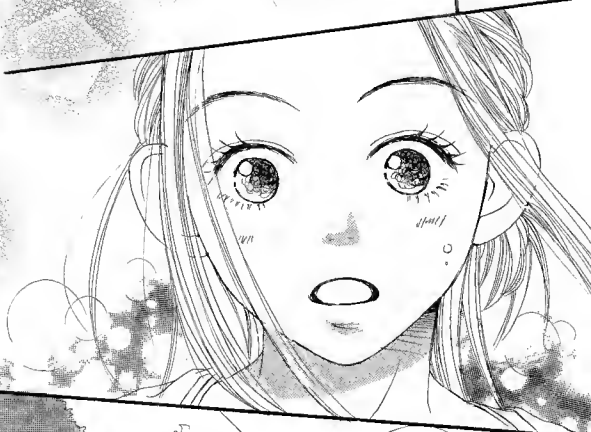
JUST  
MEET ME  
THERE,  
OKAY?!



WHAT  
IS THIS  
ALL  
ABOUT  
...?



YO!  
YOU'RE  
LATE!



OH, NO  
SPECIAL  
REASON,  
REALLY.

HM?



WHAT  
IS THIS?  
WHY'D  
YOU CALL  
ME UP  
HERE?

...

GO  
AHEAD  
AND  
OPEN IT,  
WHY  
DONCHA?

A  
PRESENT?!

ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?!

HERE.

IT'S A  
BIRTHDAY  
PRESENT.

BEACH MONK

海坊主

RUSTLE

...the Cat, and watched a...  
...frankly, she seemed to be...  
...strength. And this, she looked...  
...she was...  
...him, which remi...  
...not see in all my life...  
...the right house, because th...  
...two feet high, even then sh...



OH.  
THIS  
BADGE  
CAME  
WITH  
THE CD.

I  
FIGURED  
YOU WERE  
A BIG  
ENOUGH  
FAN TO  
TRULY  
APPRECIATE  
IT.

BUT!  
YOU  
SAID  
YOU'D  
NEVER  
GIVE  
THIS  
AWAY,  
EVER!

NWOOH!!  
FOR  
REAL?!

YOU  
CAN  
HAVE IT,  
TOO.

They're  
a set.

N  
W  
O  
O  
H!!



...the slings...  
...when I sleep...  
...for a moment...  
...the road when I was...  
...angry at the Man...  
...with the foreign ki...  
...and watched it. It w...  
...perhaps, it really...

GASP

IT'S AN  
UMIBÔZU  
CD!!

MY  
PRIZE  
POSSES-  
SION.

SUPER-  
RARE  
LIMITED  
EDITION.  
SIGNED  
BY THE  
ARTIST  
TO BOOT.



**THIS  
IS THE  
BONUS?!**

**YOU  
MEAN  
THERE'S  
MORE?!**

**BUT  
ACTUALLY,  
THAT'S  
JUST  
TODAY'S  
BONUS.**

**YOU'RE  
THE  
BEST,  
OTANIIII.  
I'LL  
NEVER  
FORGET  
THIS...**

**NWAA-  
AAAH...  
THANK  
YOUUUUU.**

**GLAD TO  
HEAR IT.**

**YUP!**

**COOL,  
IT'S  
JUST  
ABOUT  
DARK.**

**WHAT'LL  
START...**

**IT  
OUGHTA  
START  
PRETTY  
SOON.**

**BOOM**

...HUH?



HEY!

IT  
STARTED!



FWEE...

BOOM

BOOM

AND  
HERE AT  
MY SECRET  
SPOT YOU  
GET TO SEE  
THEM REAL  
GOOD WITH-  
OUT GETTING  
SHOVED  
AROUND BY  
CROWDS OF  
PEOPLE.

Yup.

PRETTY  
GREAT,  
HUH? I  
DISCOVERED  
THIS PLACE  
LAST YEAR.  
BEST VIEW  
IN TOWN!

BOOM

OMI-  
GOD!

THEY'RE  
HAVING  
FIRE-  
WORKS  
TONIGHT  
?!

BOOM

OHH!  
WOW!!  
OHH!!  
WOW!!

YOU  
FEEL A  
LITTLE  
BETTER  
NOW?

WOW-

HEH?

THOSE  
THE ONLY  
TWO  
WORDS  
YOU  
KNOW?

*Sounds like  
a dirty movie.*



I  
THOUGHT  
SEEING  
THESE  
FIREWORKS  
MIGHT  
CHEER  
YOU UP!

WELL,  
YOU KNOW,  
YOU'VE  
BEEN KINDA  
FREAKY  
LATELY  
FROM  
STRESSING  
OUT OVER  
THAT GUY  
YOU LIKE.

LIKE,  
NOT THE  
KOIZUMI  
I KNOW  
AT ALL.



IT  
REALLY  
IS BEAUTI-  
FUL, HUH?

WOW.

SO  
THAT'S  
WHY HE  
CALLED  
ME OUT  
HERE...

...OHH.

AND  
RIGHT  
NOW

...

...I FEEL  
LIKE I  
CAN TELL  
HIM THAT

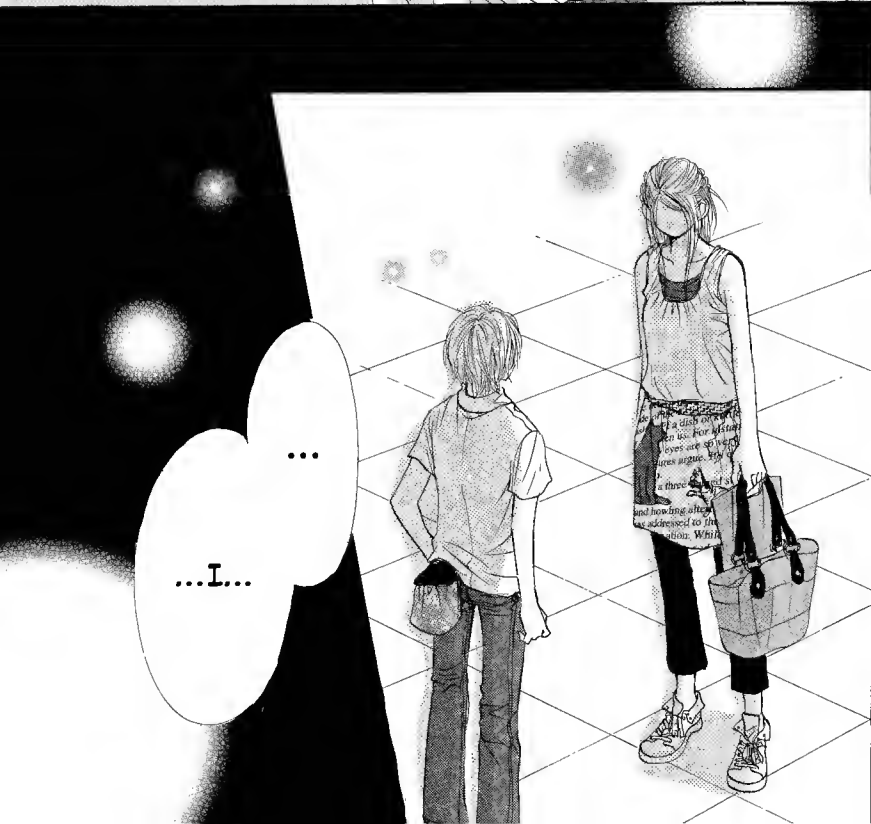
...

...YEAH.

HE'S  
THE  
BEST.

I  
REALLY  
LOVE  
THIS  
GUY.







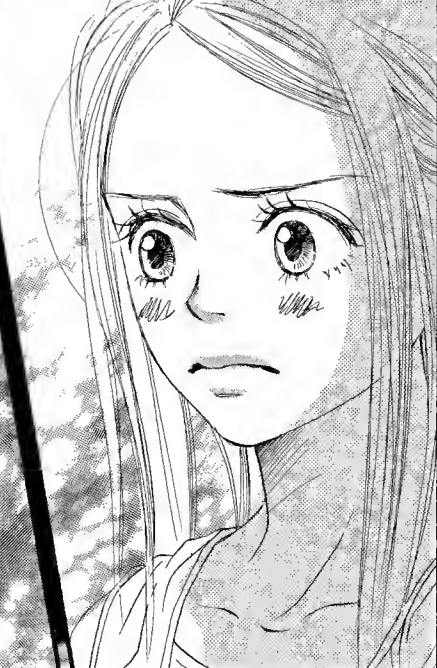
I  
REALLY  
DO.

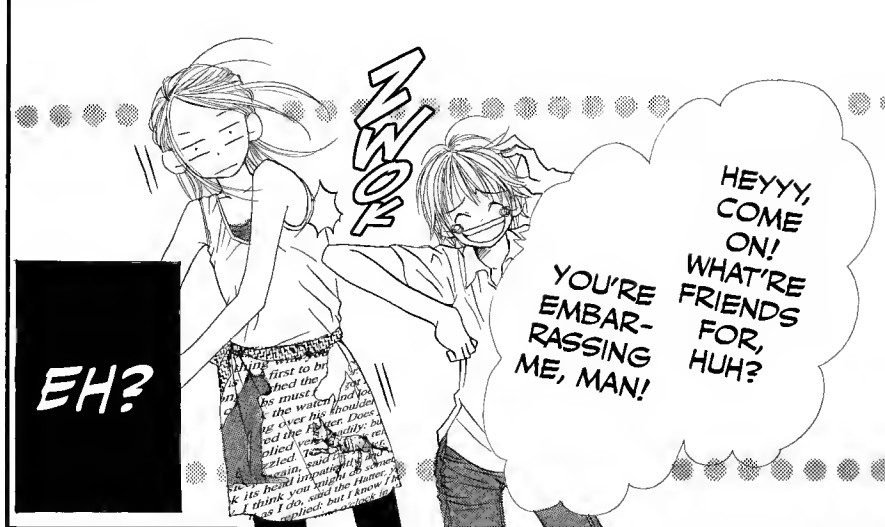
I  
LOVE  
YOU.



BOOM

5  
4  
3  
2  
1





EH?

ZWO

YOU'RE  
EMBAR-  
RASSING  
ME, MAN!

HEYYY,  
COME  
ON!  
WHAT'RE  
FRIENDS  
FOR,  
HUH?

IS  
THIS...  
FOR  
REAL?

No no  
no no  
no, you  
didn't  
get  
what I...

LOOK,  
I'M GLAD YOU  
APPRECIATED IT,  
BUT HEY, NO  
NEED TO GET  
ALL SERIOUS  
ABOUT IT!

Wait...  
Just  
hang  
on a  
sec...



Just  
bidding!!  
YOU  
WANNA  
AUDITION  
FOR  
YOSHIMOTO  
AND GO  
PRO?!

ha  
ha  
ha  
ha  
ha



...HUH  
...?

IT'S  
COOL,  
IT'S  
COOL!

YOU ARE  
MY PARTNER  
AFTER ALL,  
RIGHT?!  
WE'RE ALL  
HANSHIN-  
KYOJIN!!

...OH,  
GOD. THE  
SPIRITS.  
THE STARS.

RIGHT  
NOW,  
I'LL TAKE  
WHATEVER  
HELP I  
CAN GET.

...

HM?

HEY,  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?



BOOM

JUST DO  
SOME-  
THING  
ABOUT  
THIS IDIOT  
FOR ME!!

WHA-  
DIDJA  
SAY?!



YOU  
ARE THE  
DUMBEST  
PERSON  
I HAVE  
EVER  
MET  
IN MY  
ENTIRE  
LIFE!!

## CHAPTER 15



I KEEP  
TURNING  
THE MEMORY  
OVER AND  
OVER IN  
MY MIND.

...I  
WAS  
WITH  
YOU.

THE  
NIGHT  
OF MY  
SEVEN-  
TEENTH  
BIRTH-  
DAY...



...AND  
THAT  
IDiotic  
LOOK  
ON YOUR  
FACE.

THOSE  
BEAUTIFUL  
FIREWORKS  
EXPLODING  
AGAINST  
THE NIGHT  
SKY...

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER  
FORGET THAT NIGHT FOR  
AS LONG AS I LIVE.



...UNTIL  
EVENTU-  
ALLY,  
THERE IS  
NOTHING  
OF YOU  
LEFT...

HERE'S  
ANOTHER  
ONE.  
MAY YOU  
SHRINK  
HALF  
AN INCH  
EVERY  
DAY...

WILL  
YOU JUST  
LEAVE ME  
THE HECK  
ALONE?!

WHAT'S  
WITH YOU  
AND THESE  
HEXES AND  
CURSES  
AND CRAP  
YOU'VE BEEN  
MUTTERING  
AT ME  
LATELY?!

HEY! YOU,  
GHOST,  
AND YOU,  
HUCKSTER,  
HOW ABOUT  
GETTING  
TO WORK?

IDIOT?!

EXCEPT  
THIS  
IDIOT  
HERE  
KEEPS  
GETTING  
IN MY WAY.

I'M  
TRYING  
TO.

WHA  
...?!

AN  
IDIOT LIKE  
YOU HAS NO  
RIGHT CALLING  
OTHER PEOPLE  
"IDIOT,"  
ALL RIGHT?  
YOU STUPID  
IDIOT!!

YOU'VE  
BEEN ON ME  
**NONSTOP**  
SINCE SCHOOL  
STARTED  
AGAIN!!  
WHAT'RE YOU  
SO **MAD**  
ABOUT?!

WHAT  
I DID  
TO  
YOU?

YOU  
REALLY  
HAVE  
NO IDEA  
WHAT  
YOU DID  
TO ME?!

NO!!  
I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
WHAT  
CAME  
AFTER  
THAT!!

AFTER  
THAT?

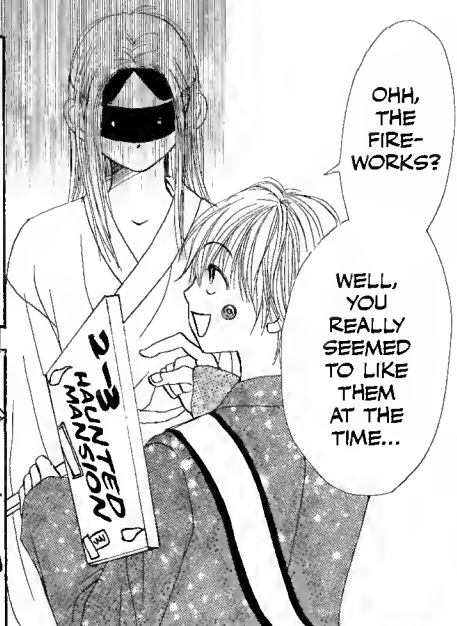
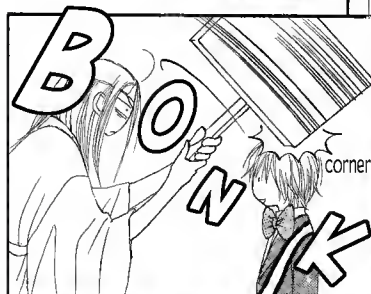
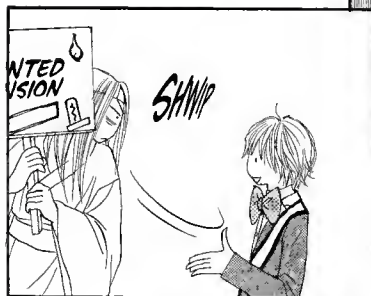
OMIGOD,  
THAT WAS  
THE BEST  
PRESENT  
**EVER.**

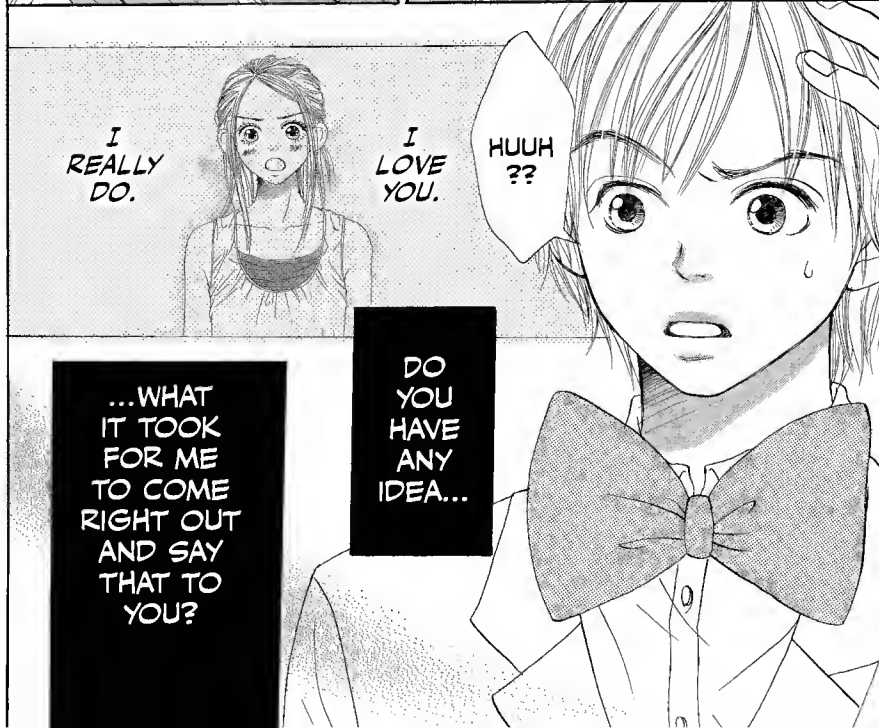
I ALMOST  
**DIED** OF  
GRATITUDE.

RIGHT?

LET'S  
SEE.  
I GAVE  
YOU MY  
NUMBER-  
ONE PRIZE  
POSSES-  
SION AS A  
BIRTHDAY  
PRESENT.

FRANKLY,  
I WAS  
EXPECTING  
A LITTLE  
MORE  
GRATITUDE  
THAN THIS.





I  
REALLY  
DO.

I  
LOVE  
YOU.

HUUH  
??

...WHAT  
IT TOOK  
FOR ME  
TO COME  
RIGHT OUT  
AND SAY  
THAT TO  
YOU?

DO  
YOU  
HAVE  
ANY  
IDEA...

IS THERE  
NO LIMIT  
TO HOW  
DENSE  
THAT GUY  
CAN BE?!

ARGH!  
THAT  
STUPID  
FOOL  
...!

AND  
WHAT  
DID I  
GET?

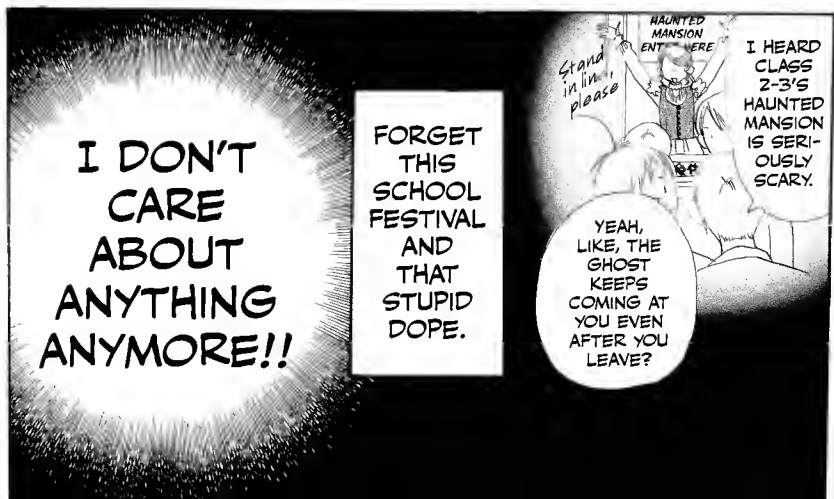
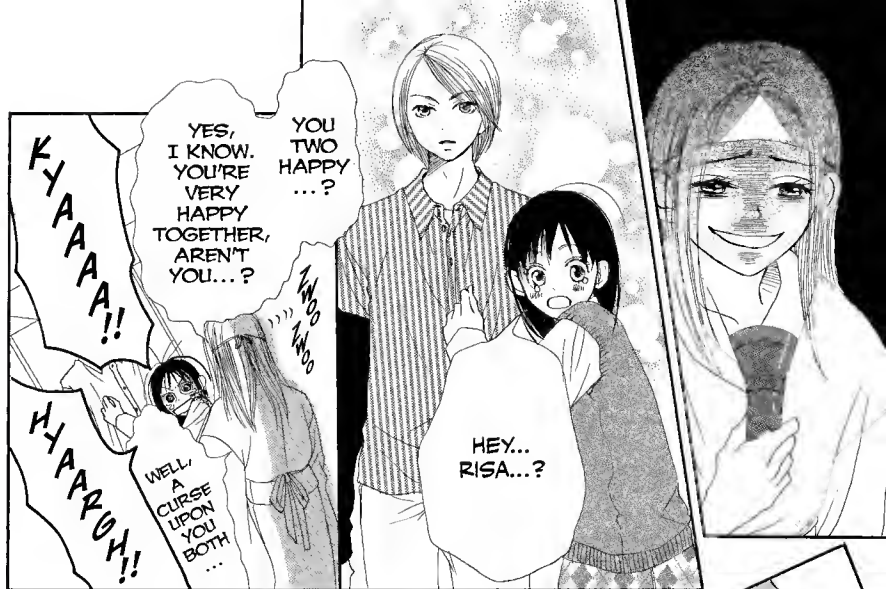
HEYYY,  
COME  
ON!  
WHAT'RE  
FRIENDS  
FOR,  
HUH?



KYAAAAA!!

I  
WILL  
KILL  
YOU  
...







I'll write about something normal for a change.

It turns out there really is a "Tokimeki Beach" in Osaka. I found out after this was published. I knew there was a Pichipichi Beach... So anyway, I went to Tokimeki Beach this summer to watch some fireworks.

It's technically within Osaka Prefecture, but so far south it's practically in Wakayama, so I got a ride.

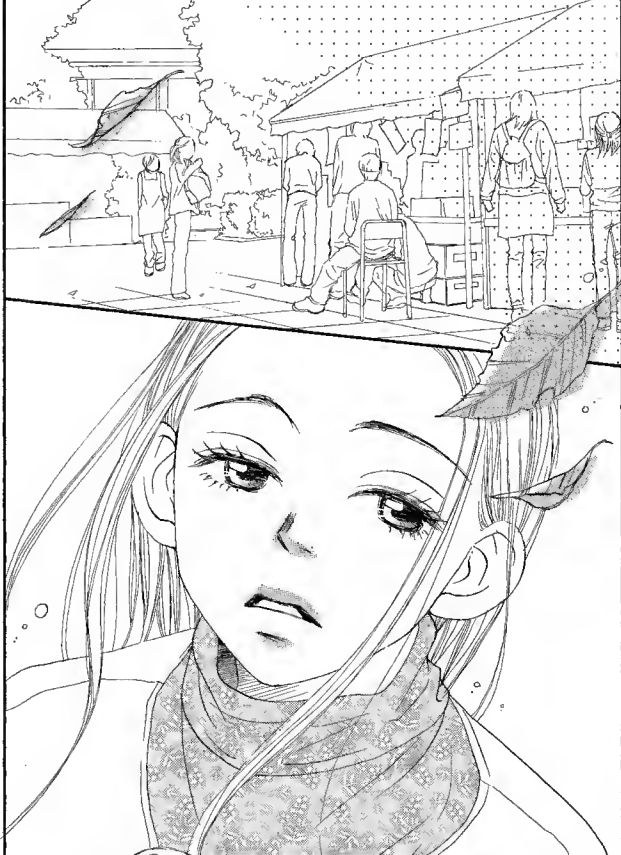
The fireworks were really beautiful.

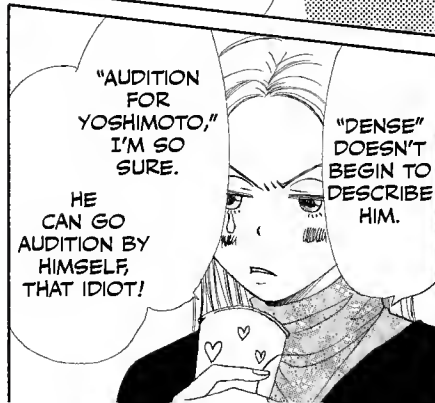
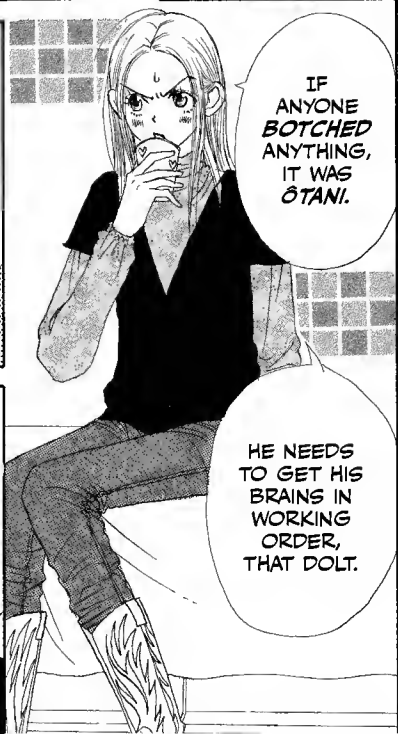
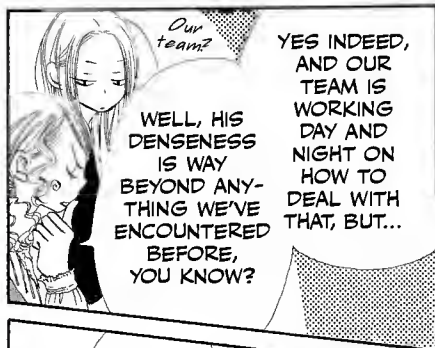
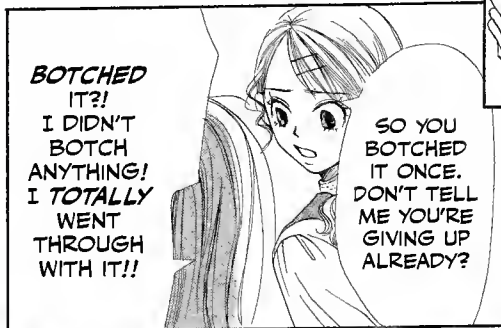
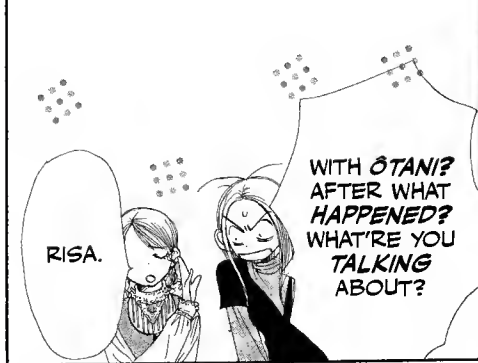
Cars...are pretty wonderful.

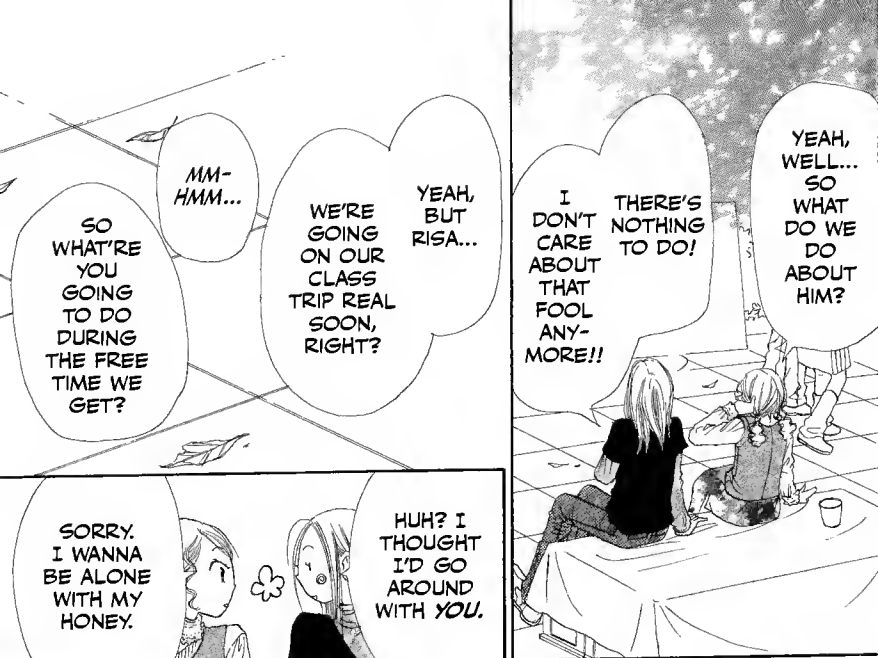
But I don't have a driver's license.

I can't even get through crowds of people, so I just don't feel I can make my way through crowds of cars. I plan to live my life sitting in somebody else's passenger's seat.

Can anybody give me a ride?









HEY!  
THERE  
YOU  
ARE.

THAT,  
OR ALL  
BY YOUR-  
SELF.

NO  
WAA-  
AAAY!

W  
H  
A  
A  
T  
?!



...Oh...

NOBODY'S  
COMING  
ANYMORE  
SINCE  
AKEMI  
TOOK  
OVER.

EVERY-  
ONE'S  
LOOKING  
FOR YOU,  
RISA.



I  
FIGURED  
OUT WHY  
YOU'RE  
MAD AT  
ME.

KOIZUMI.

THE GUY YOU  
HAVE A CRUSH  
ON FOUND  
OUT YOU WERE  
WITH ME ON  
YOUR BIRTHDAY  
AND GOT THE  
WRONG IDEA.  
RIGHT?

EH?!

AND I'M  
SORRY.  
I SHOULDN'T  
HAVE DONE  
THAT TO YOU.

SO  
WHAT  
WAS IT,  
THEN?!

HE'S  
BEEN  
SAYING  
STUFF  
LIKE  
THIS ALL  
MORNING.

THAT'S  
NOT  
WHY?!

HUH?  
THAT  
WASN'T  
IT?!

How do  
you come  
up with  
stuff like  
that?

Omgod,  
he just  
set a new  
record for  
clueless-  
ness.

I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
THIS.



WHAT  
IS YOUR  
PROBLEM,  
ANYWAY?!

I  
JUST  
USED  
IT,  
OKAY?!  
FOR  
THE  
FIRST  
TIME!!

NO,  
**YOU'RE**  
STARTING  
TO PISS  
ME OFF,  
YOU  
NINCOM-  
POOP?!

NIN...!  
**NINCOM-  
POOP?!**  
PEOPLE  
ACTUALLY  
USE  
WORDS  
LIKE  
THAT?!



OH, FINE,  
FORGET  
IT. LET'S  
LEAVE IT  
AT THAT.

WHAT  
WAS IT?  
THE GUY  
I LIKE  
FOUND OUT  
I WAS WITH  
YOU AND  
GOT THE  
WRONG  
IDEA?

COME  
ON, MAN.  
YOU'RE  
STARTING  
TO PISS  
ME OFF.



**YOU'RE MY  
PROBLEM!**

OH YEAH?  
WELL I'M GETTING  
SICK OF THIS!  
WELL, I'M  
ALREADY SICK  
OF THIS!

WANNA  
TRY  
TELLING  
HIM,  
THEN?

**WHAT  
IS MY  
PROBLEM  
?!**

I THINK  
I CAN  
FINALLY  
GET IT  
THROUGH  
TO HIM.



Y'KNOW,  
I'M  
GETTING  
SICK AND  
TIRED OF  
ALL OF  
YOU!!

**THAT  
ISN'T  
FUNNY!!**

THE GUY  
RISA  
HAS A  
CRUSH  
ON IS  
YOU,  
OKAY?

HEY,  
OTANI.

**WHAT!!**

HEY!  
YOU  
LISTENING  
TO ME?!

... "THAT  
ISN'T  
FUNNY"?

Some...

Some-  
body...

MAKING  
FUN OF  
ME ALL  
THE TIME,  
JUST 'CUZ  
YOU'RE  
ALL IN  
ON IT  
AND I'M  
NOT!!

....!!

DID HE  
JUST  
SAY...

...

HE  
REALLY  
THOUGHT  
NOBU  
WAS  
JOKING.

blah

blah

Yum!

Ooh.

HE  
ACTUALLY  
THOUGHT  
SHE MADE  
THAT  
UP TO  
TEASE  
HIM.

OH.

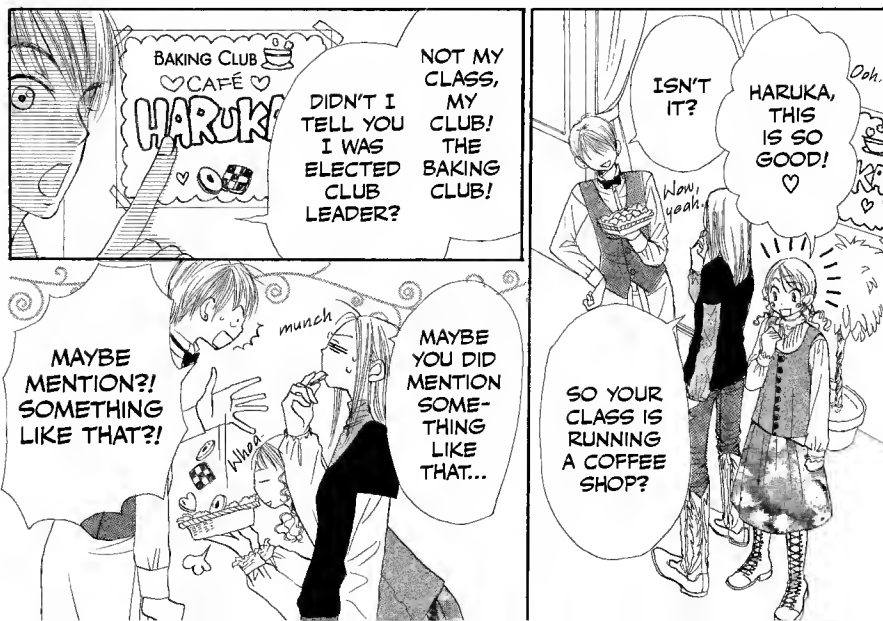
RISA!!

SOME-  
THING  
THAT'LL  
REALLY  
HURT  
WHEN I  
PLUNGE  
IT INTO  
HIM!!

GET  
ME A  
SHARP  
OBJECT!!

CALM  
DOWN,  
RISA!!

WHAT  
IS WITH  
HER,  
ANYWAY?





I  
COULDN'T  
CARE  
LESS  
ABOUT  
HIM,  
REALLY...!

N-NO...  
THAT'S  
NOT...!!

YOU  
COULDN'T  
CARE  
LESS  
ABOUT  
ME!



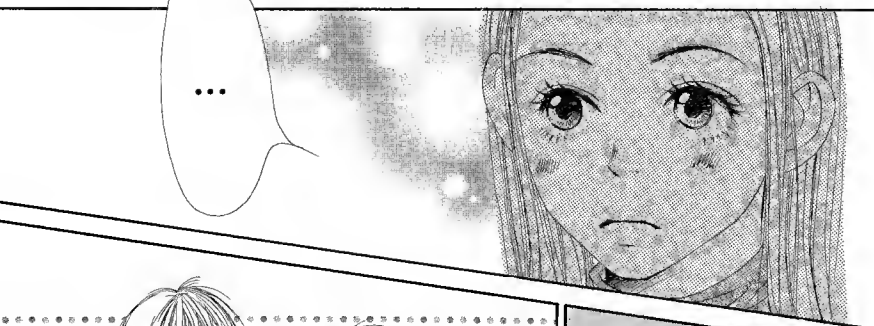
Of  
course  
I do.

OH.

UH.

IT'S  
PRETTY  
OBVIOUS  
YOU DON'T  
CARE  
ABOUT ME  
AT ALL,  
RISA!!

ALL YOU  
CAN THINK  
ABOUT ALL  
THE TIME  
IS THAT  
STUPID  
MIDGET!!



WELL,  
YEAH.  
DUH.  
THAT  
SHRIMP,  
RIGHT?

Who  
else?

DO  
YOU  
KNOW  
WHO I  
HAVE A  
CRUSH  
ON?



WHAT?

...HEY,  
HARUKA  
?





THAT'S  
NOT  
WHY HE  
DOESN'T  
GET IT.

...IS HE  
**THAT**  
DENSE?

NO. HE  
COULDN'T  
BE.





IT'S  
BECAUSE  
HE CAN'T  
EVEN  
IMAGINE...

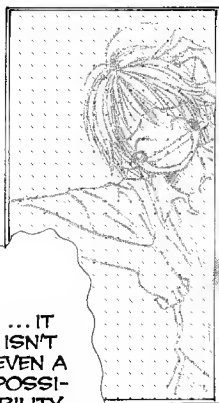
...THAT HE  
MIGHT BE  
THE ONE.



...YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT?

IT ISN'T  
BECAUSE  
ÔTANI'S  
DENSE.

HUH?



...IT  
ISN'T  
EVEN A  
POSSI-  
BILITY  
FOR  
HIM.



AND  
THAT'S  
BECAUSE  
HE CAN'T  
EVEN  
IMAGINE...

...THAT  
HE AND  
I WOULD  
EVER GET  
TOGETHER

...



ARGH!!  
THAT  
LITTLE  
TWERP  
!!

THAT  
LITTLE  
SHRIMP  
!!

AAAAA!!

CALM  
DOWN,  
RISA!!

WITH  
THAT  
IDIOTIC  
LOOK ON  
HIS FACE!  
IT'S  
BECAUSE  
HE FEELS  
TOTALLY  
SAFE!!



THAT'S  
IT...

AND  
THAT'S  
WHY  
HE  
SAYS  
STUFF  
LIKE  
THAT  
...

IT  
ISN'T  
EVEN A  
POSSI-  
BILITY  
FOR  
HIM...



THERE  
SHE IS!  
WE FOUND  
KOIZUMI!

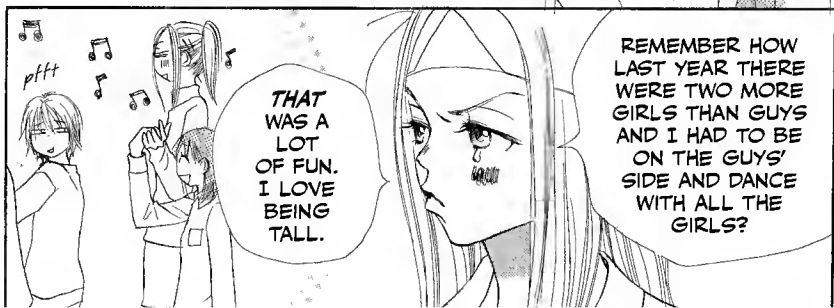
GRAB  
HER  
BEFORE  
SHE  
GETS  
AWAY!

SO I'VE  
BEEN  
GETTING  
ALL  
WORKED  
UP FOR  
NOTHING?  
THIS  
REALLY  
TICKS ME  
OFF!!

TWO

TWO

TWO



REMEMBER HOW LAST YEAR THERE WERE TWO MORE GIRLS THAN GUYS AND I HAD TO BE ON THE GUYS' SIDE AND DANCE WITH ALL THE GIRLS?

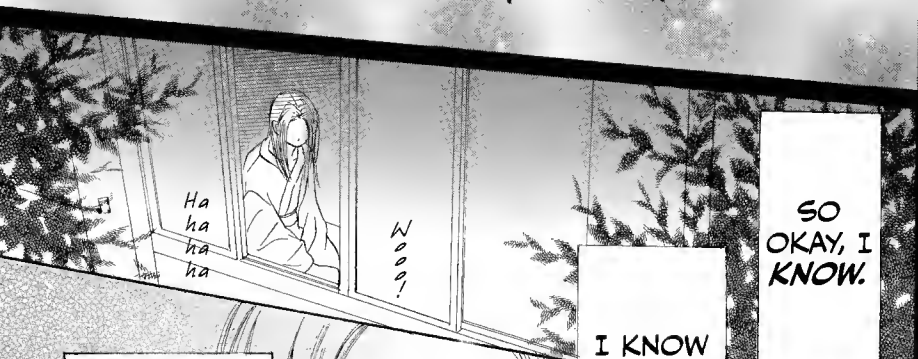


I JUST  
WANT  
TO BE  
ALONE  
RIGHT  
NOW...

HE  
WENT TO  
THROW  
OUT THE  
TRASH.

GO  
AHEAD,  
YOU  
GUYS.

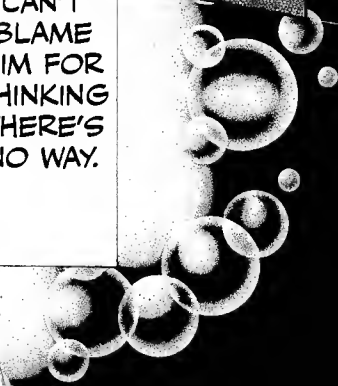
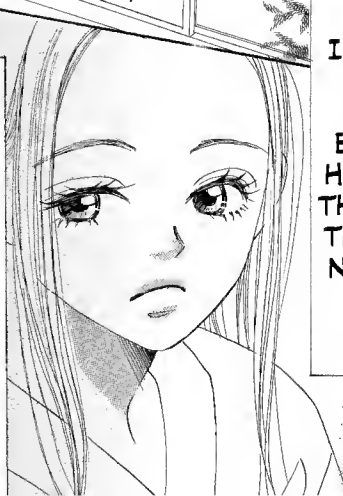
WHICH  
REMINDS  
ME.  
WHERE'D  
ÔTANI  
GO?



I THOUGHT  
THERE WAS  
NO WAY IT  
WOULD EVER  
HAPPEN  
MYSELF.

I KNOW  
YOU  
CAN'T  
BLAME  
HIM FOR  
THINKING  
THERE'S  
NO WAY.

SO  
OKAY, I  
KNOW.



ÔTANI  
THINKS  
OF ME  
AS ALL  
KYOJIN.  
PERIOD.

WE'RE  
PARTNERS,  
REMEMBER?



THAT  
A GIRL  
AS TALL  
AS ME...

I MEAN,  
COME  
ON.  
THAT'S  
JUST  
FUNNY.

WELL,  
NOBODY  
WOULD  
EVER  
EXPECT  
ALL KYOJIN  
TO BE  
IN LOVE  
WITH ALL  
HANSHIN.

CHEER  
UP!

I  
KNOW  
IT'S  
FUNNY.

I  
LOVE  
HIM.  
I  
CAN'T  
HELP  
IT.

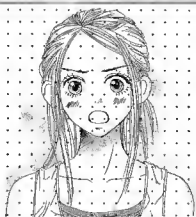
BUT...



...WOULD  
FALL  
IN LOVE  
WITH A  
GUY AS  
SHORT  
AS HIM.

I  
REALLY  
DO.

I  
LOVE  
YOU.



AND  
CAME  
RIGHT  
OUT AND  
TOLD  
HIM,  
BUT...

THAT'S  
WHY I  
SCREWED  
UP ALL MY  
COURAGE

...

THAT  
DOPE...

KTUNK

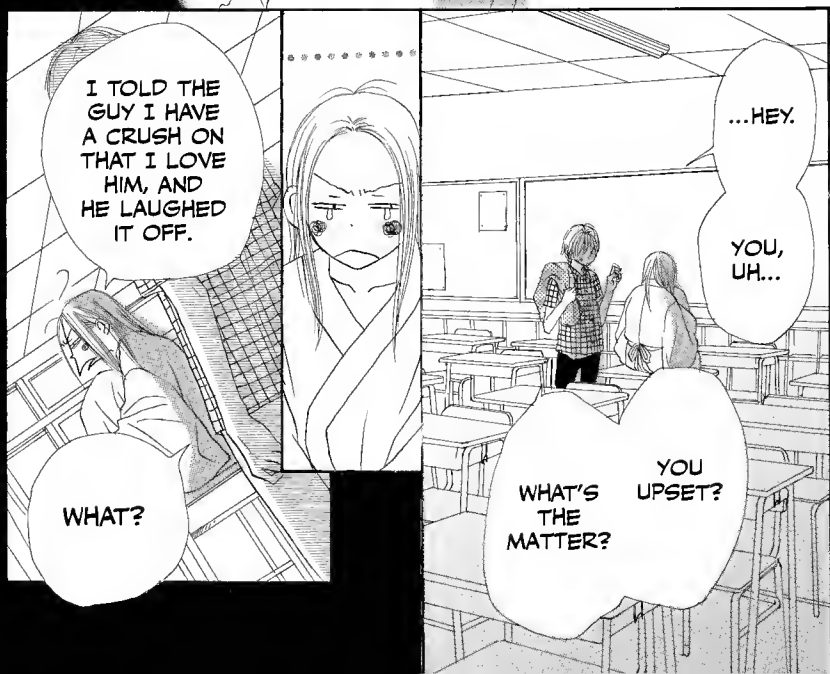
KA-  
TUNK

KA-  
TUNK



...Oh.  
It's  
you...

GYAA-  
AAARGH  
!!



I  
MEAN,  
WELL,  
GEE...  
UMM...

THAT'S  
...

TOO  
BAD...

OH!

OH...

YOU  
WANT  
ME TO  
GO FIND  
HIM AND  
TRY  
TELLING  
HIM FOR  
YOU  
AGAIN?

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
DO THAT,  
SINCE HE'S  
RIGHT  
HERE.

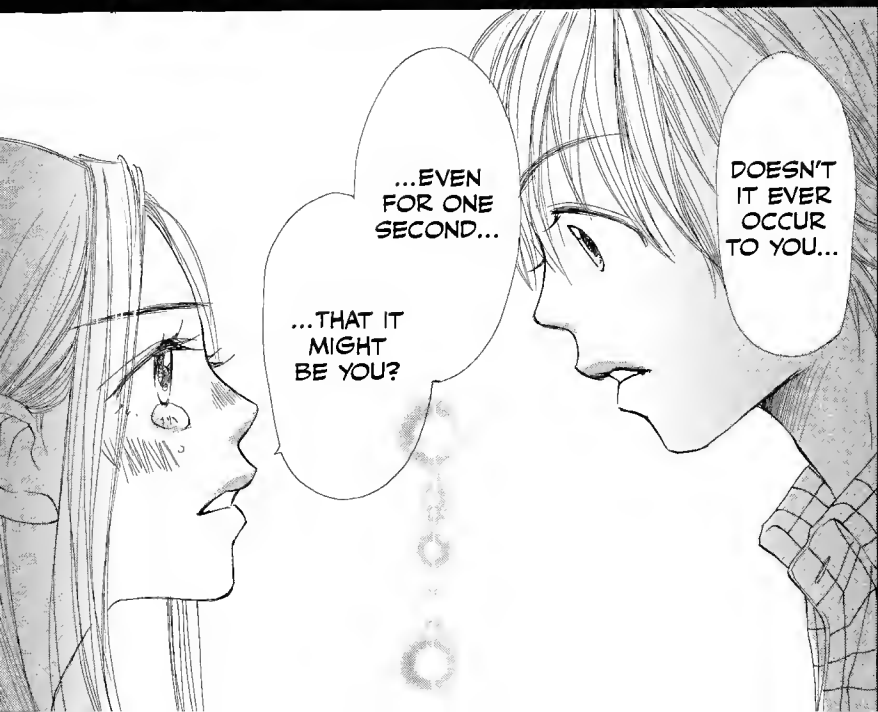
EH? UH,  
YEAH...

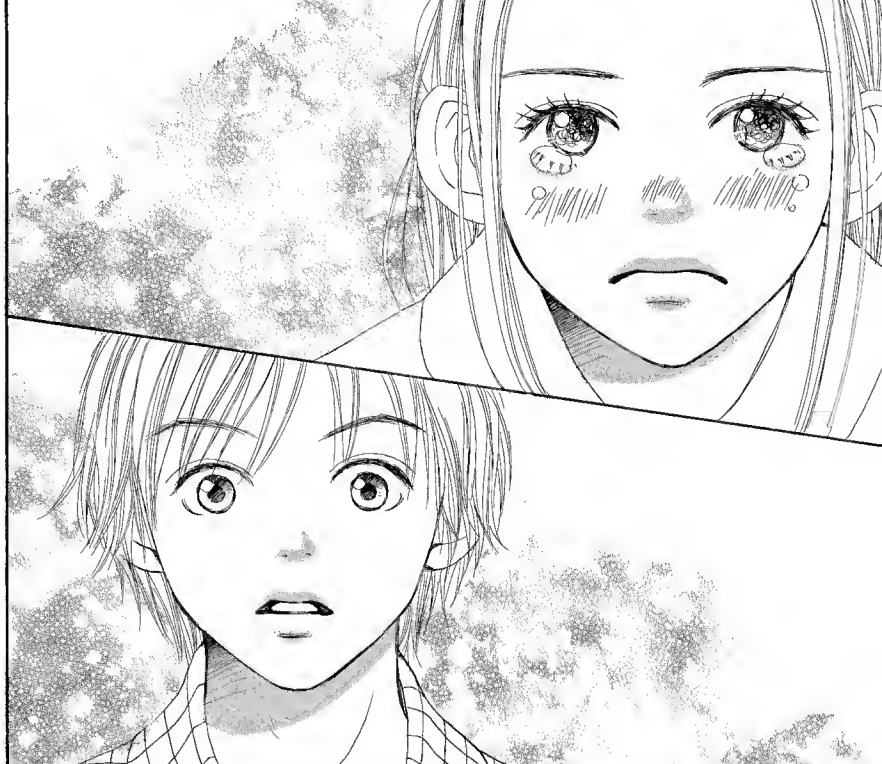
HE'S  
SHORTER  
THAN  
YOU, AND  
HE PLAYS  
BASKETBALL,  
AND HE'S  
STUPID...

I TOLD  
YOU WHAT  
KIND  
OF GUY  
HE WAS,  
DIDN'T I?

HEY!  
ÔTANI?

HUH?!





I AM  
SICK OF  
SEEING  
THAT  
IDIOTIC  
LOOK  
ON YOUR  
FACE.

...FORGET  
IT.

I  
KNEW IT.  
HE CAN'T  
EVEN  
IMAGINE  
IT.

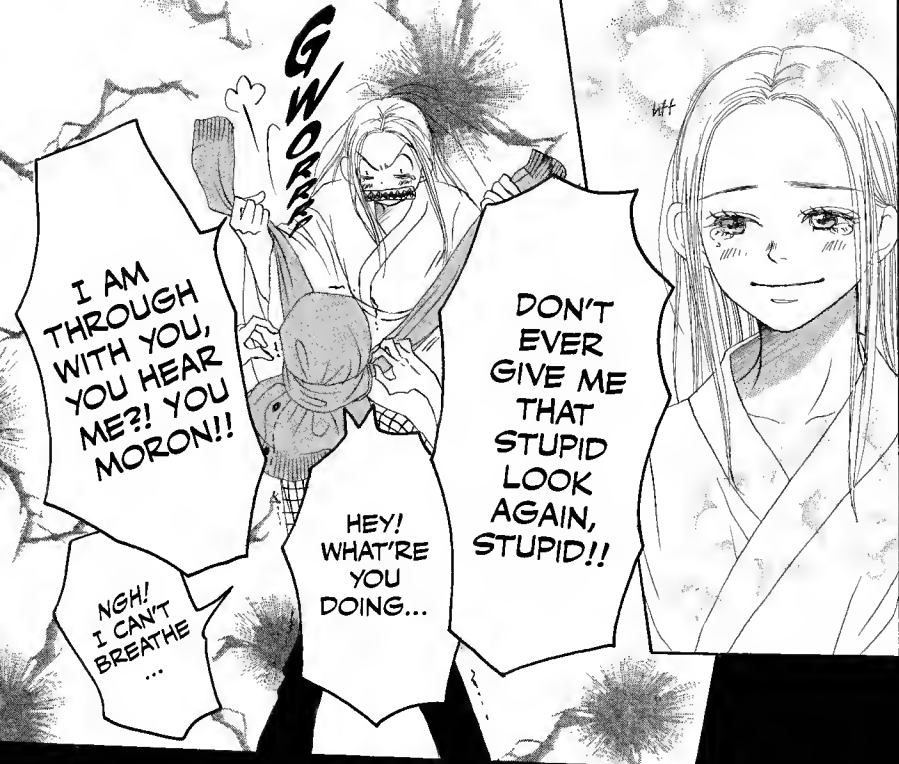
HUH...?



...OCCUR  
TO ME  
...?

...SEE  
?

HUH?  
WHAT?  
I DON'T  
GET WHAT  
YOU MEAN.





AND  
HE  
PLAYS  
BASKET-  
BALL...

HE'S  
SHORTER  
THAN  
YOU...



Is he  
stupid?

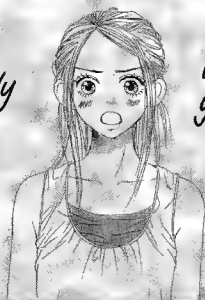


An idiot like you  
AND has no right calling  
other people "idiot,"  
HE'S all right?  
STUPID... You  
stupid  
idiot!!



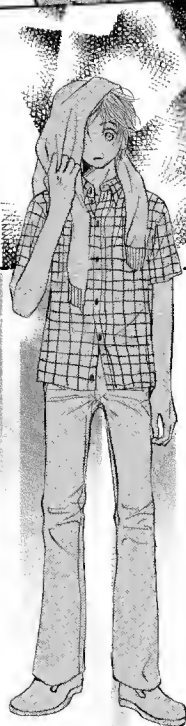
You're  
embarrassing  
me, man!

I  
really  
do.



I  
love  
you.





HUH  
?!

IT'S  
ME?!

I DON'T  
EXPECT  
IT TO  
WORK  
OUT...

AFTER  
ALL,  
I AM ALL  
KYOJIN.

...JUST  
BECAUSE  
HE  
FINALLY  
FIGURED  
IT OUT.

*klik*

*klak*

*klik*

*klak*

OH MY  
GOD...

NOW  
WHAT  
DO I  
DO  
...?



...AS  
A GIRL,  
FOR  
ONCE.  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
BIT,  
ANYWAY.

BUT I  
WANTED  
HIM TO  
THINK  
OF ME...



BUT...

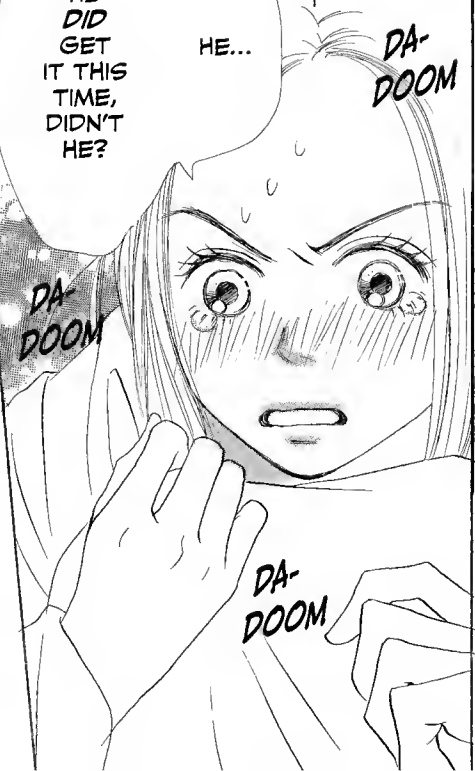
klak

HE  
DID  
GET  
IT THIS  
TIME,  
DIDN'T  
HE?

HE...

DA-  
DOOM

DA-  
DOOM



DA-  
DOOM



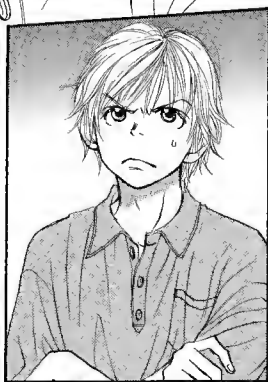
I  
WANTED  
HIM TO  
THINK  
ABOUT  
ME.

blah

blah

Hey,  
what's  
up?

blah



HE  
DEFINITELY  
FIGURED  
IT OUT,  
FINALLY.

There's  
smoke  
coming  
out of his  
head.

HE'S  
THINKING.  
HE'S  
THINKING  
REALLY  
HARD.



Oh,  
darn...

YAAAY,  
RISA!

GOOD  
FOR  
YOU,  
GIRL!



YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE  
TO DO  
ANYTHING,  
RISA.  
YOU  
TOLD  
HIM.

Omigod...  
What  
am I  
supposed  
to do now?!

NOW  
IT'S UP  
TO OTANI.  
WAIT TO  
SEE WHAT  
HE SAYS.

What  
he  
says?!

WELL,  
IT'S A  
LITTLE  
TOO  
LATE  
TO BE  
SAYING  
THAT,  
RISA.

GWIP

Darn it!  
Nobu!  
I should  
never  
have  
told  
him!

I'm  
freaking  
out!!

GET  
BACK  
HERE,  
RISA!

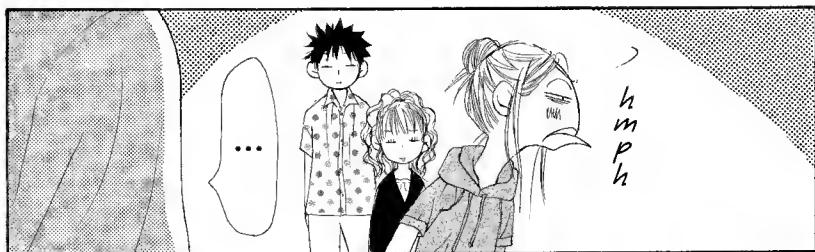
I don't  
care  
if he's  
stupid!!  
I love  
that he's  
stupid!!

Omigod!  
I'm  
gonna  
tell him I  
was just  
kidding.

...

Loa!



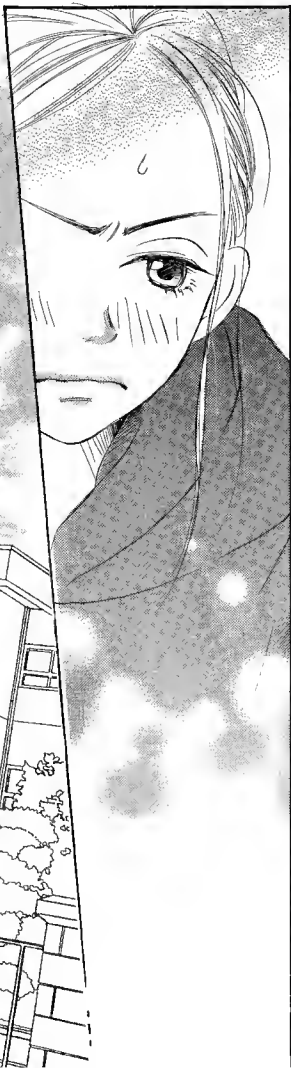


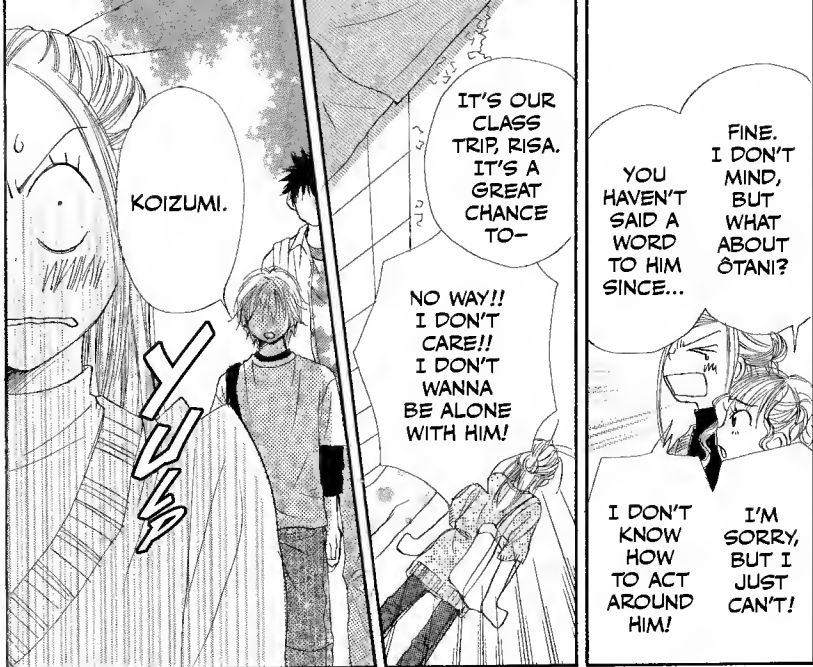
OMIGOD.

I'M  
REALLY  
FREAKING  
OUT  
NOW.

HEY,  
NOBU?  
I KNOW  
I'LL BE  
IN YOUR  
WAY...

...BUT  
PLEASE  
HANG OUT  
WITH ME  
ON THE  
CLASS TRIP,  
PLEEZE...?







ALL I  
REALLY  
WANTED

...WAS  
FOR  
HIM TO  
THINK  
ABOUT  
ME.

...YEAH.

TELL  
HER  
WHAT  
I THINK,  
RIGHT...

...WHAT  
DO I  
BECOME  
INSTEAD?

...IF I  
STOP  
BEING  
ALL  
KYOJIN  
TO HIM...

BUT...

WE'RE  
LEAVING  
BRIGHT  
AND EARLY  
TOMORROW,  
SO PACK  
TONIGHT AND  
DON'T BE  
LATE...

...AND  
NOW  
WE'RE  
OFF TO  
HOKKAIDO  
FOR OUR  
CLASS  
TRIP.

THE FUN  
NEVER  
STOPS!  
WE JUST  
HAD THE  
SCHOOL  
FESTIVAL  
LAST  
WEEK...

OKAY-

Hey,  
Mr.  
Nakano?  
How much  
money  
should we  
bring?

OH, GOD.  
I'LL JUST  
HAVE TO  
MAKE SURE  
I'M NEVER  
ALONE  
WITH ÔTANI.

NO!!  
I DON'T  
WANT  
TO GO!

WHO  
CARES  
ABOUT  
HOKKAIDO?!

Ha  
ha  
ha

CAN I  
REALLY  
ACT  
LIKE A  
NORMAL  
GIRL  
AROUND  
HIM?



## CHAPTER 16





SO  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO ME  
NOW?

I WAS SO  
DESPER-  
ATE TO  
LET HIM  
KNOW  
HOW I  
FEEL...

...THAT I  
NEVER  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT  
WHAT  
COMES  
AFTER  
THAT.

...SO?



AFTER  
THE  
LONGEST  
TIME...

...MY  
FEELINGS  
FOR ÔTANI  
FINALLY  
SEEM  
TO HAVE  
GOTTEN  
THROUGH  
TO HIM.



NUH-  
UH!  
DEFINITELY  
NO CHANCE  
OF THAT!!

ACTUALLY,  
I'VE BEEN  
IN LOVE  
WITH YOU  
TOO.

LET'S  
START  
GOING  
OUT.

NOW  
JUST  
WAIT  
TO SEE  
WHAT  
ÔTANI  
SAYS.

WHAT  
ÔTANI  
SAYS...



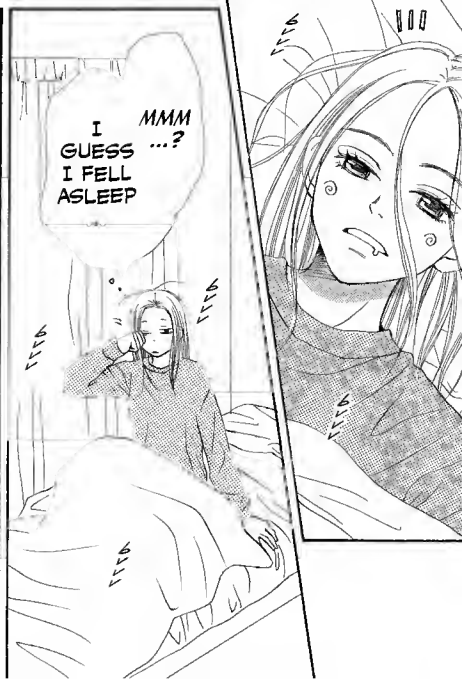
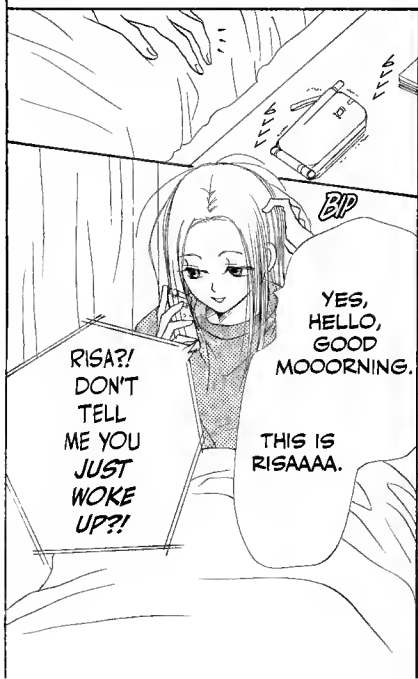
I JUST  
KNOW HE'S  
GOING TO SAY  
"DON'T GROSS  
ME OUT" OR  
"THERE IS NO  
WAY" OR  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

HELP!!  
I'M  
FREAK-  
ING!!



I'LL  
JUST  
MAKE  
SURE I  
NEVER  
TALK  
TO HIM!

THE BEST  
BET IS  
TO AVOID  
BEING  
ALONE  
WITH HIM!



WHAT  
?

I'M ON  
THE BUS  
TO THE  
AIRPORT,  
AND IT'S  
ABOUT TO  
LEAVE!!

ha  
ha  
ha

YOU  
FORGOT  
WE'RE  
GOING TO  
HOKKAIDO  
TODAY,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?!

I'VE BEEN  
CALLING  
YOU FOR  
THE PAST  
HOUR!!

AM I  
GOING  
TO  
MAKE  
IT?!

OMI-  
GOD!





This is the last of  
these for this volume.

I didn't realize people  
were even reading  
these things until  
those poop cartoon  
requests at the  
autograph session.  
Thank you so much!

Starting with the  
next volume, I intend  
to hold forth intelli-  
gently on brainy  
topics that will get  
people asking me for  
my views on the  
Japanese economy.

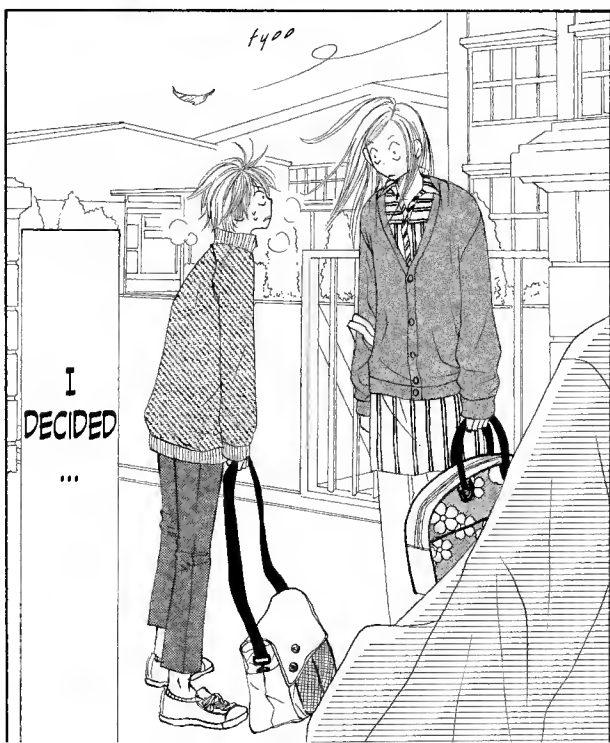
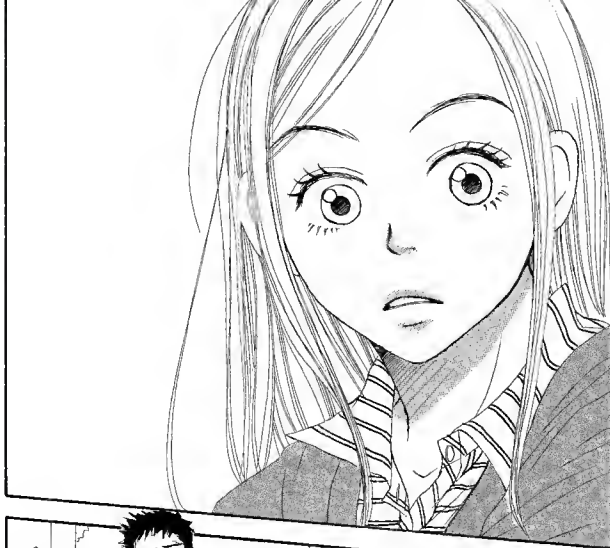
That is a lie.

Well, then.  
I hope I get to  
meet you again  
in Vol. 5!

T + B  
Aya  
January, 2003

v Special Thanks v

Nana Ikebe  
Yuko Idomoto  
Hikari Katayama  
Nakahara Family  
Betsuma Family  
and  
you



...MY  
BEST  
BET WAS  
TO AVOID  
BEING  
ALONE  
WITH  
ÔTANI.

AND  
TO MAKE  
SURE I  
NEVER  
TALK  
TO HIM.

THAT  
...

...WAS  
THE  
PLAN.

BUT...

関西空港駅  
Kansai airport Station

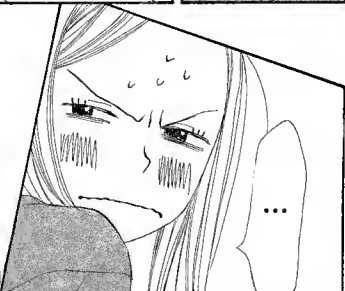
IT'S  
ALREADY  
GOING  
HAY-  
WIRE!

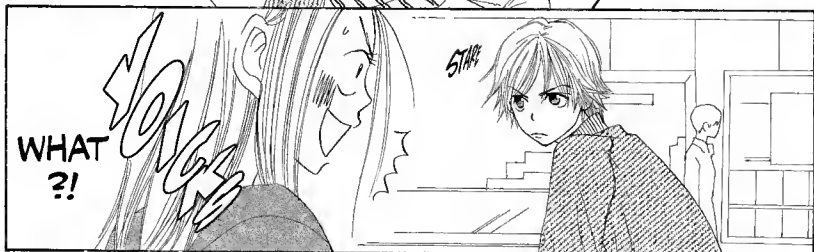
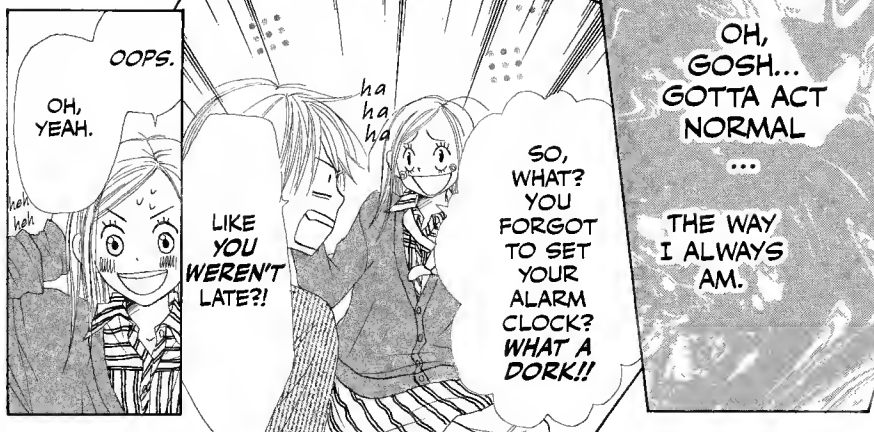
SORRY,  
MR.  
NAKANO  
...

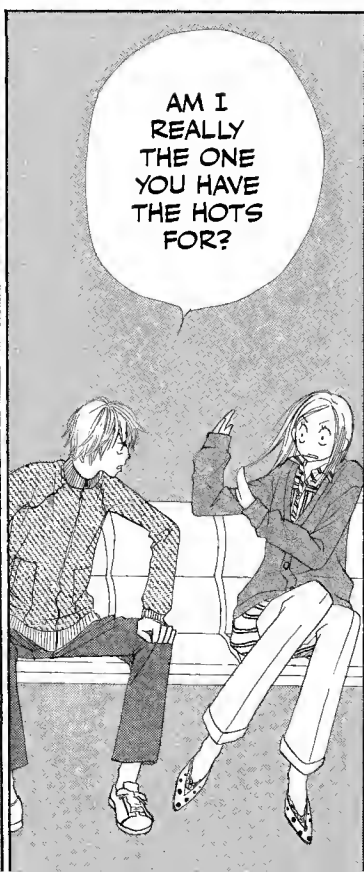
WHAT  
?!

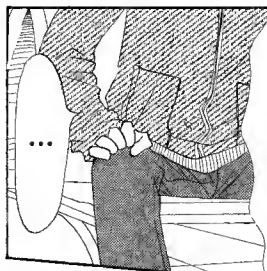
I'M  
GOING TO  
GET NEW  
TICKETS  
ISSUED  
FOR US, SO  
YOU STAY  
PUT RIGHT  
THERE, YOU  
CLOWNS.

Great  
THE  
PLANE'S  
ALREADY  
TAKEN  
OFF...

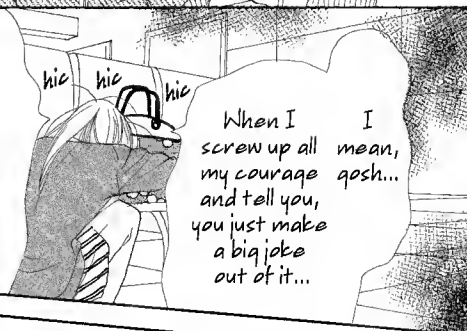


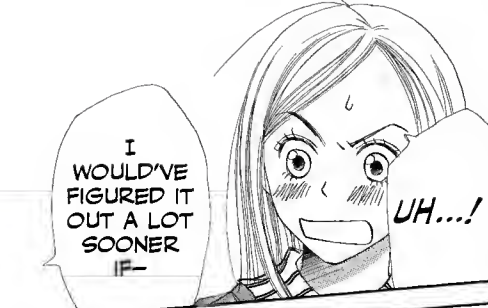






And now you have to bring it up in the middle of the airport after we just missed our plane...?





I  
WOULD'VE  
FIGURED IT  
OUT A LOT  
SOONER  
IF—

UH...!



SHISHI-  
ODOSHI

KU-  
TUNK

SPUSH

SPUSH

WRIGGLING  
AWAY?!  
WHAT AM  
I, SOME  
KIND OF  
WORM?!

THIS  
IS WHY  
I DIDN'T  
GET IT,  
OKAY?!  
'CUZ  
YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
LIKE  
THIS!



EEK?

OH.

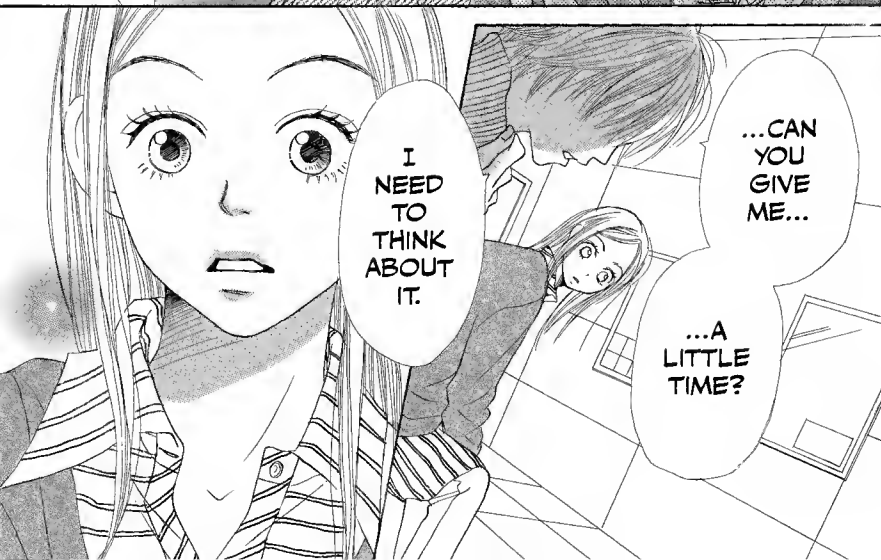
WELL,  
THAT'S  
TRUE.

WHAT'S  
TO FIGURE  
OUT?!  
IT WASN'T  
A BIG  
MYSTERY.  
I ACTUALLY  
SAID IT...  
STRAIGHT  
TO YOUR  
FACE...



...

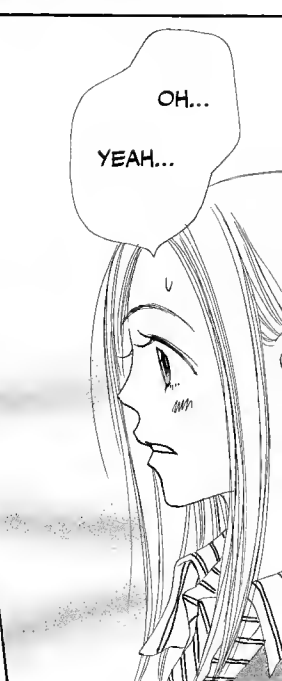
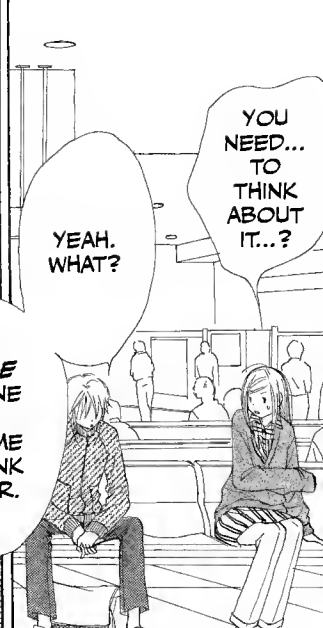
...



I  
NEED  
TO  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT.

...CAN  
YOU  
GIVE  
ME...

...A  
LITTLE  
TIME?



SO YEAH,  
I ASKED HIM  
TO THINK  
OVER WHAT  
I SAID...

Yeah,  
but it was  
no picnic.  
All the  
flights've  
booked  
solid.

Um, so,  
did you  
get the  
tickets?

Oh...

NOT  
EXACTLY  
YOUR USUAL  
NOISY  
SELVES.

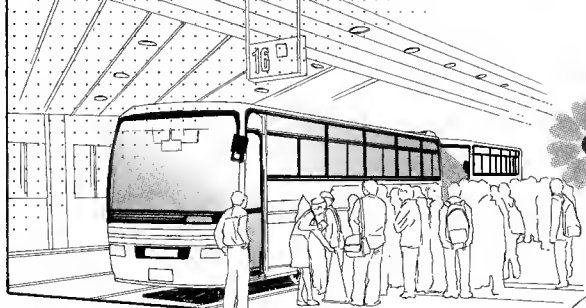
DON'T  
THINK  
I'VE EVER  
SEEN YOU  
THIS  
QUIET.

ha  
ha  
ha

Uh...  
really?!

...IT  
MAKES  
ME FREAK  
OUT BIG-  
TIME.

BUT  
WHEN HE  
GETS SO  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT  
IT...



RISA!  
YOU  
MADE  
IT!

Y  
A  
A  
Y!

REALLY?  
I THOUGHT  
IT WAS  
REALLY  
FAST, LIKE,  
I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD  
TAKE  
LONGER.

THE FLIGHT!  
IT LASTED  
FOREVER!  
I THOUGHT  
I WAS  
GONNA DIE!

OH YEAH,  
I OUGHT TO  
MENTION  
THAT YOU  
GUYS ARE  
THE HOT  
TOPIC HERE.

OMIGOD,  
ÔTANI WAS  
RIGHT NEXT  
TO ME THE  
WHOLE TIME!  
I COULDN'T  
EVEN  
BREATHE!

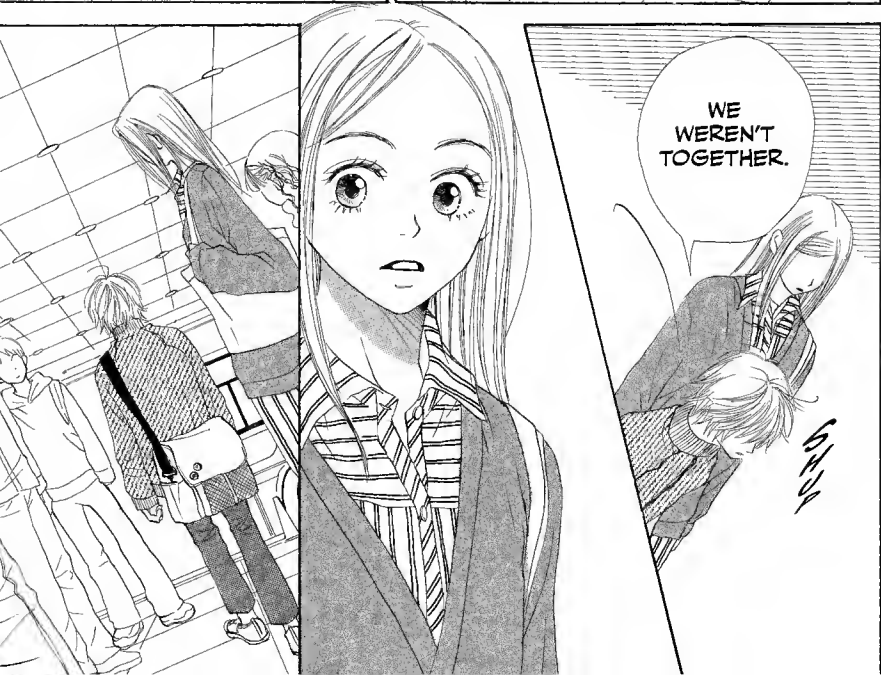
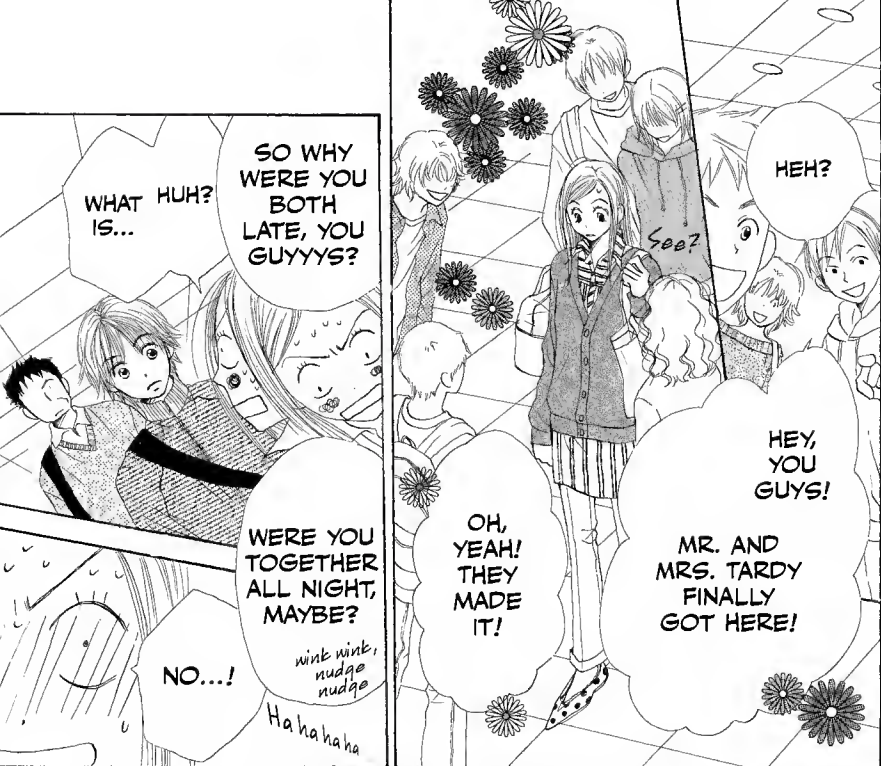
SILENCE

I  
CAN'T  
DO  
THIS!

I JUST  
CAN'T!  
I WANNA  
GO  
HOOOME!

MY GOD,  
I WAS  
STARTING  
TO THINK...

G  
W  
O  
M





HUH?  
WHAT?  
I DON'T  
GET  
WHAT  
YOU  
MEAN.

I'M  
JUST  
THE  
OTHER  
HALF  
OF A  
COMEDY  
DUO.

AS  
FAR AS  
ÔTANI'S  
CON-  
CERNED,  
I'M  
JUST A  
JUMBO-  
GAL.

YOU'LL  
DIE OF OLD  
AGE BEFORE  
ANYBODY  
EVER ASKS  
YOU OUT,  
JUMBO-GAL.  
WE'RE ALL  
HANSHIN-  
KYOJIN,  
REMEMBER?



NOW THAT  
HE KNOWS  
YOU LIKE HIM,  
YOU AREN'T  
ALL HANSHIN-  
KYOJIN  
ANYMORE.

BUT...

I MEAN,  
IT NEVER  
OCCURRED  
TO HIM FOR  
A SINGLE  
MOMENT  
THAT HE  
MIGHT BE  
THE ONE  
I HAD A  
CRUSH ON.

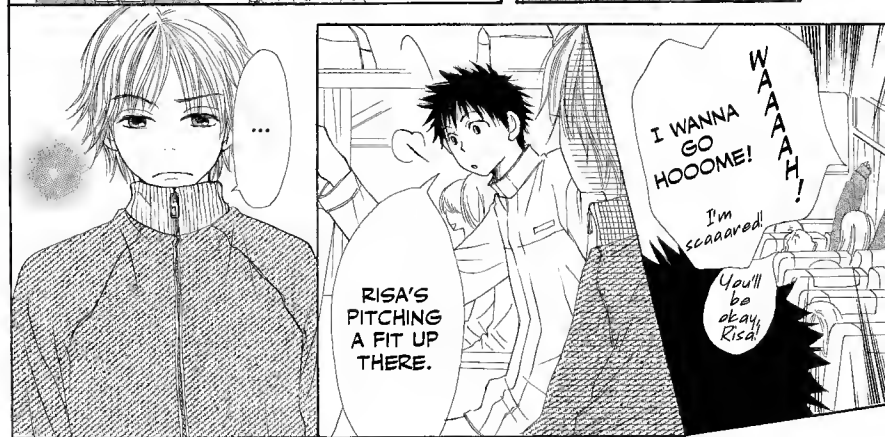
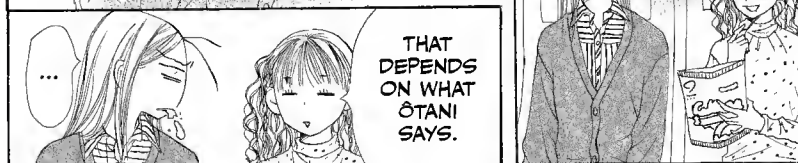
...OH  
...I  
GUESS  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT...

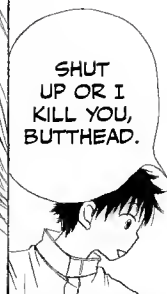
AND YOU  
WANTED  
TO GET OUT  
OF *THAT*  
RELATIONSHIP  
WITH HIM,  
RIGHT?



I  
JUST  
KNOW  
IT.

SO WHY  
WOULD HE  
WANT TO  
GO OUT  
WITH ME?  
THERE'S  
NO WAY.





SHUT  
UP OR I  
KILL YOU,  
BUTTHEAD.



'CUZ YOU  
WERE  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
RISA?



SNIF  
SNIF  
SNIF  
...

This  
scary  
person  
isn't the  
Ôtani I  
know...



I  
STUFFED  
THEIR  
MOUTHS  
FULL OF  
SNACKS  
AND THAT  
DIDN'T  
WORK.

WHAT?  
JUST DO  
WHATEVER  
IT TAKES,  
FOR  
GOODNESS  
SAKE.



THE  
ONES WHO  
MISSED THE  
PLANE THIS  
MORNING ARE  
ZONKED OUT,  
AND WE  
CAN'T WAKE  
THEM UP.

MR.  
NAKANO!





WOW



WOW

OKAY!



YOU DID WHAT?

FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD. FINE, CALL THEM ON THEIR CELL PHONES LATER AND HAVE THEM FIND US.



...KOIZUMI.



Go out with me!!

WAIT, OTANI-KUN!

Okay yay yay yay.



I'M GOING TO START DATING THIS CRAB.

WHAT ?!

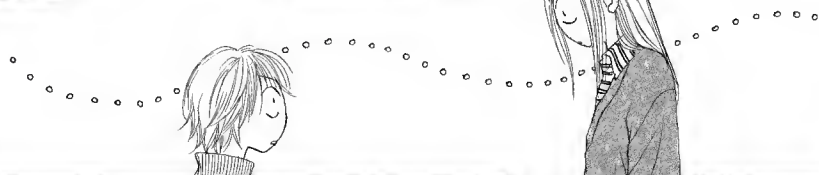
A SHEEP, HMM... MUTTON'S PRETTY TASTY, TOO.

SHE'S A LOCAL DELICACY, AND SHE'S FRESH AND TASTY.

WHAT ?!

WHAT ?!

I JUST CAN'T GO OUT WITH A GIANT LIKE YOU.







MAYBE

...

...I  
TOTALLY  
BLEW IT.

BECAUSE  
NOW...

...IF WE  
OPEN OUR  
MOUTHS  
THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
THING WE  
CAN TALK  
ABOUT.



YOU  
WANTED  
TO GET  
OUT OF  
THAT  
RELATION-  
SHIP  
WITH HIM,  
RIGHT?

WELL,  
IF  
WE'RE  
GOING  
TO BE  
LIKE  
THIS...

I'D  
RATHER BE  
YELLING AT  
EACH OTHER  
AS USUAL,  
AND TALKING  
ABOUT ALL  
KINDS OF  
STUFF.



WOW,  
COOL!  
CHECK  
THAT  
OUT!

NEVER  
SEEN  
ONE OF  
THOSE  
BEFORE!

MAYBE

...I  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE  
TOLD HIM  
AFTER  
ALL.



LOOKS  
LIKE  
**FUN!**

A REAL  
**RICK-  
SHAW!!**

**FAR  
OUT!!**



Thank

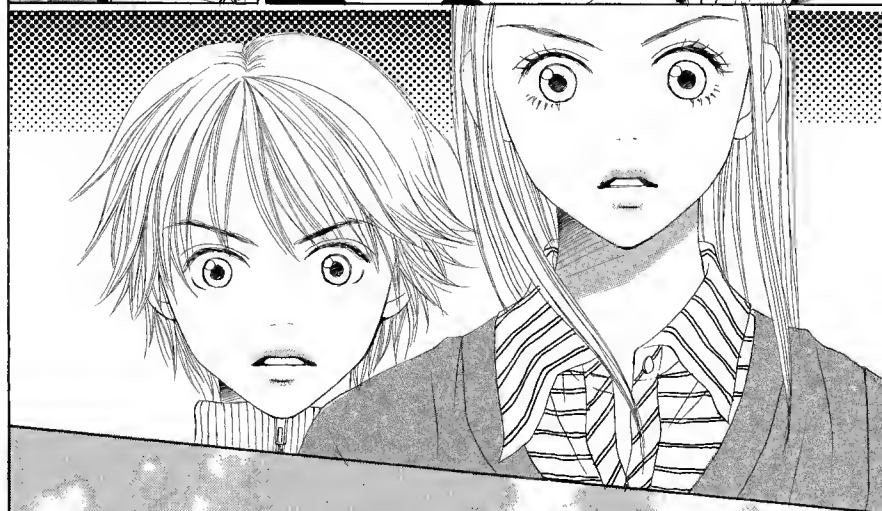
THAT  
WAY!

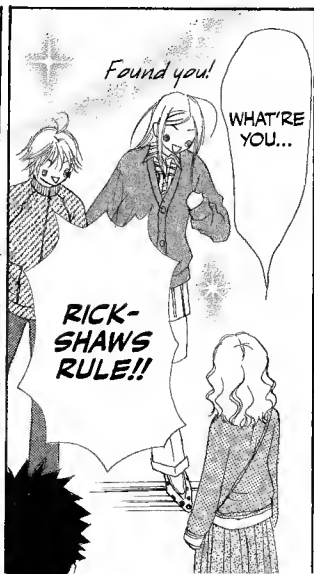
COME  
ON,  
LET'S  
WALK  
AROUND  
SOME  
MORE.

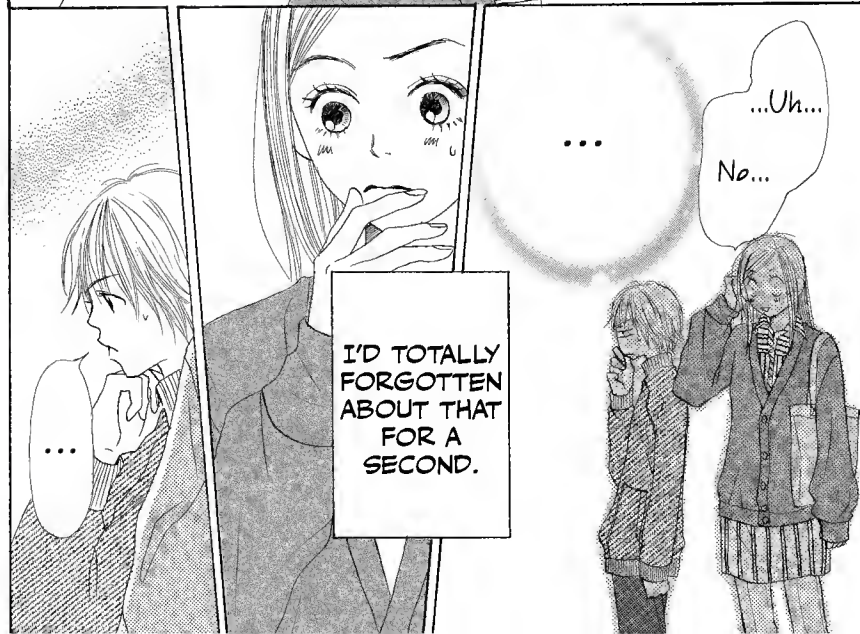
I  
GUESS  
NOT.  
TOO BAD,  
THOUGH.

NO WAY,  
MAN. YOU  
WANNA  
LOOK LIKE  
A TOTAL  
TOURIST?

WANNA  
GO ON  
IT?!





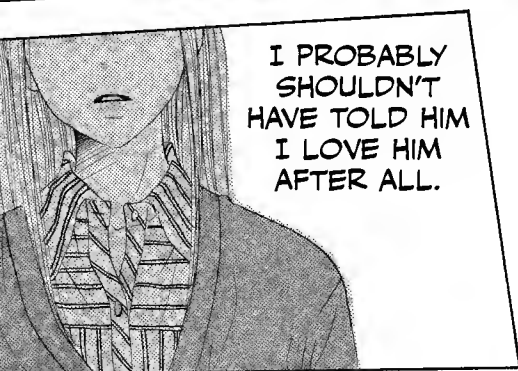




I'M GONNA  
GET ME  
SOMETHING  
TO DRINK.

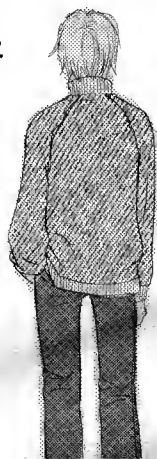
...I'M  
KINDA  
THIRSTY.

YOU GUYS  
DECIDE  
WHERE TO  
GO NEXT.



I PROBABLY  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE TOLD HIM  
I LOVE HIM  
AFTER ALL.

THAT  
WAS A  
LOT  
BETTER  
THAN  
*THIS.*



MAYBE I  
SHOULD  
FORGET  
ABOUT  
THAT...

...AND  
JUST  
GO BACK  
TO BEING  
ALL  
HANSHIN-  
KYOJIN  
WITH HIM,  
LIKE  
BEFORE.





MAYBE  
HE'S  
LOST IN  
THOUGHT  
AGAIN.

YOU  
WANNA  
LOOK AT  
SOUVENIRS  
WHILE  
WE WAIT?



WHAT DO  
YOU SAY,  
RISA...?



THAN  
THIS  
WEIRD-  
NESS...

WHERE'S  
ÔTANI?

YOU  
THINK  
HE GOT  
LOST?



UH,  
RISA?

I'M  
GONNA  
GO  
LOOK  
FOR  
HIM!

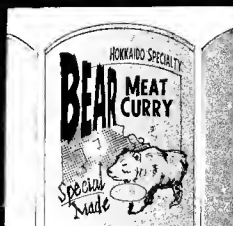
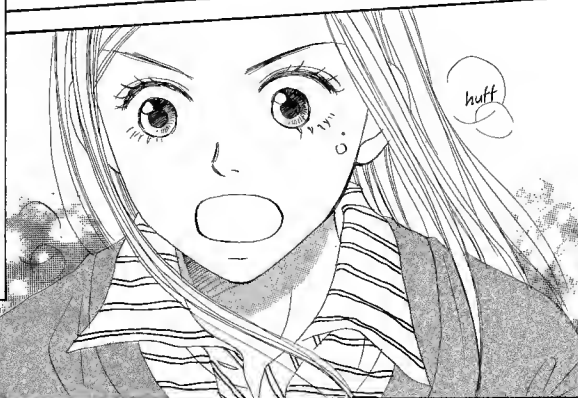
LOST IN  
THOUGHT  
...?

CAN YOU  
GIVE ME  
SOME TIME?  
I NEED  
TO THINK  
ABOUT IT.



I CAN  
STILL  
DO IT.  
IT'S NOT  
TOO LATE.

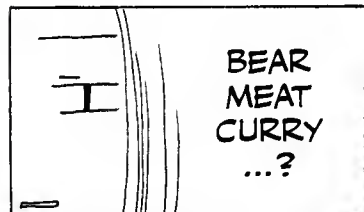
I'LL  
JUST ASK  
HIM TO  
FORGET  
ANY OF  
THIS EVER  
HAPPENED.

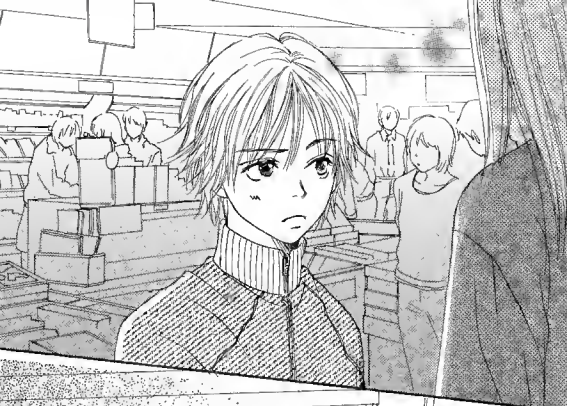


AND  
THEN...



WE'LL  
GO  
BACK  
TO...





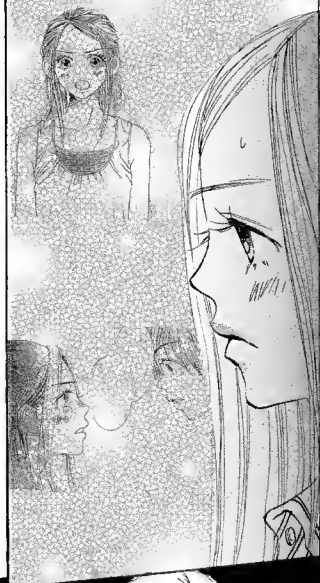
LET'S  
FORGET  
IT EVER  
HAPPENED

...



...

YOU  
SAID TO  
THINK IT  
OVER REAL  
HARD,  
AND I DID.  
I REALLY  
DID.



...

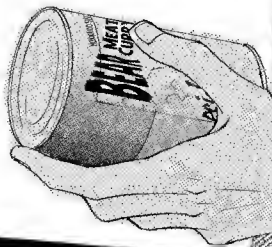
...THINK  
WHAT  
OVER...?



DA-  
DOOM

...

AND  
WELL,  
SO...



BUT...

WE'VE  
BEEN THIS  
COMEDY  
TEAM FOR,  
LIKE, THE  
LONGEST  
TIME. YOU  
KNOW?

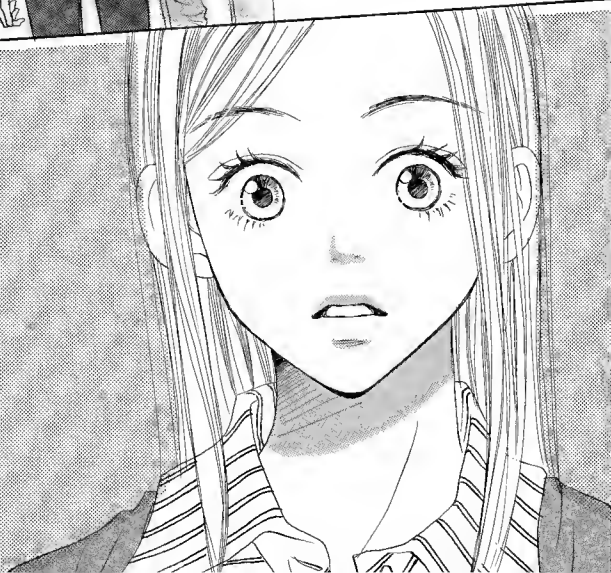
I LIKE  
YOU A LOT,  
AND I LIKE  
HANGING  
OUT WITH  
YOU...

PLUS  
YOU'RE  
ABOUT THE  
ONLY ONE  
WHO'LL  
DO STUPID  
STUFF WITH  
ME, LIKE  
RIDING THAT  
RICKSHAW  
TODAY...

I  
CAN'T JUST  
SUDDENLY  
START GOING  
OUT WITH  
YOU OR  
THINKING OF  
YOU THAT  
WAY.



I'M  
SORRY.





...UH-  
HUH.

YEAH.



WHADDAYA  
MEAN,  
NO BIG  
DEAL...

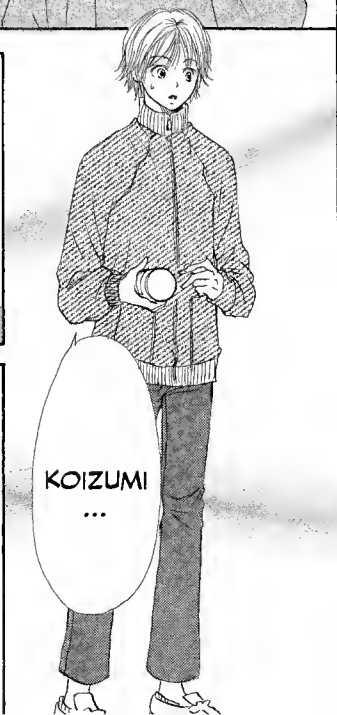
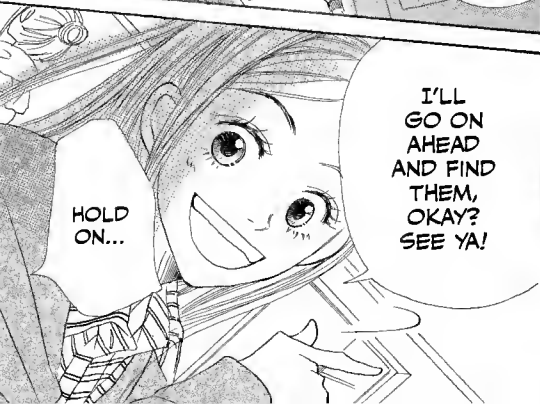
IT'S FINE,  
REALLY.  
IT'S NO  
BIG DEAL.  
JUST  
FORGET  
ABOUT IT!!



HA HA  
HA HA HA!  
COME ON,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO GET  
SO SERIOUS  
ABOUT IT!  
NO BIG DEAL!

WHA...!

JUST  
LIKE I  
THOUGHT.





KOIZUMI!

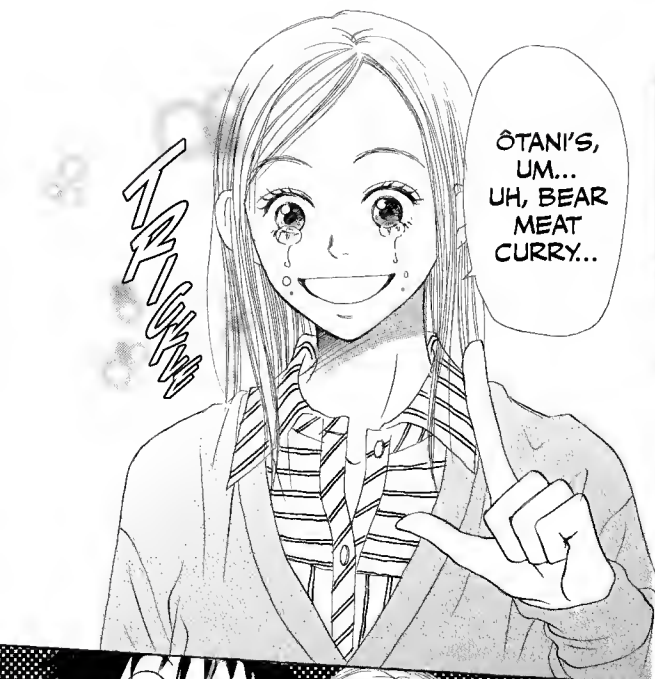
THAT'S  
ALL I  
WANTED  
ANYWAY.

...WAS  
THAT I  
WANTED  
HIM TO  
THINK OF  
ME AS  
A GIRL  
FOR ONCE.  
JUST A  
LITTLE.  
THAT'S ALL.

I'M  
BACK,  
YOU  
GUYS!

I KNEW  
ALL  
ALONG HE  
WOULDN'T  
WANT TO  
GO OUT  
WITH ME.

THE  
REASON  
I TOLD  
HIM I  
LOVE  
HIM...



ÔTANI'S,  
UM...  
UH, BEAR  
MEAT  
CURRY...



BUT  
RISA...  
WHERE'S  
ÔTANI?

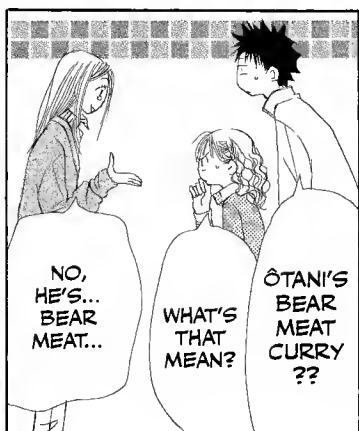
OH,  
UM...  
ÔTANI?



WHAT DOES  
BEAR MEAT  
CURRY HAVE  
TO DO WITH  
ANYTHING?!

BEAR  
MEAT  
CURRY  
...

PLIP  
PLIP



NO,  
HE'S...  
BEAR  
MEAT...

WHAT'S  
THAT  
MEAN?

ÔTANI'S  
BEAR  
MEAT  
CURRY  
??

STILL,  
THOUGH...

HEARING  
HIM SAY IT  
STRAIGHT  
OUT LIKE  
THAT  
REALLY  
HURT.

BEAR  
MEAT  
CURRRYYY  
!!

SO  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
BEAR  
MEAT  
CURRY  
ANY-  
WAY?!

*Someone  
paying  
you to  
plug it or  
what?!*

*Run*

*It  
sure  
was!*

*That  
was  
fun!*

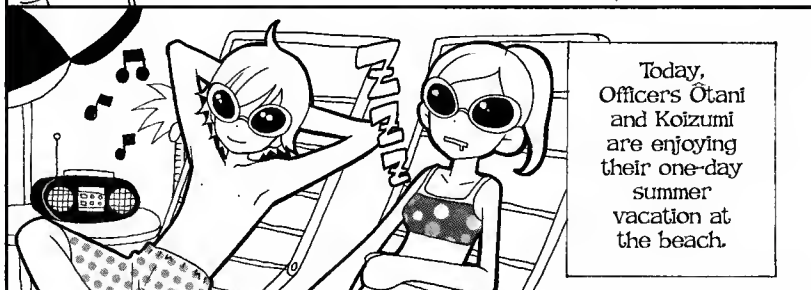
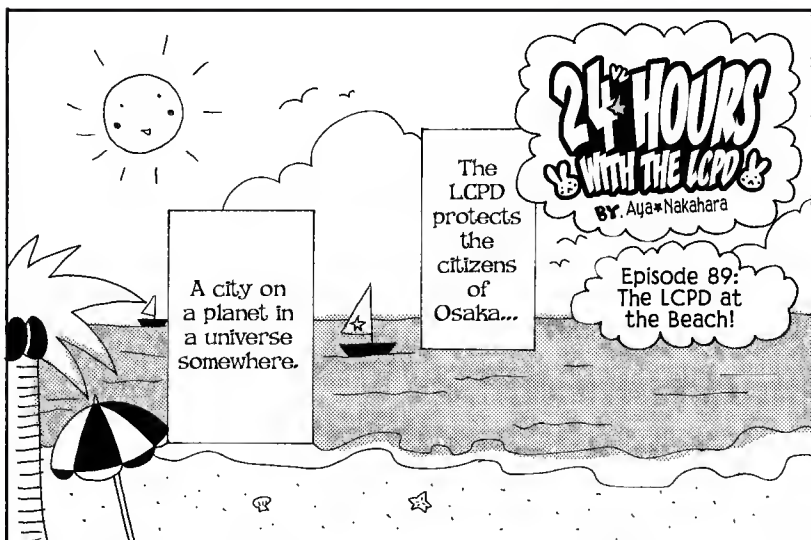


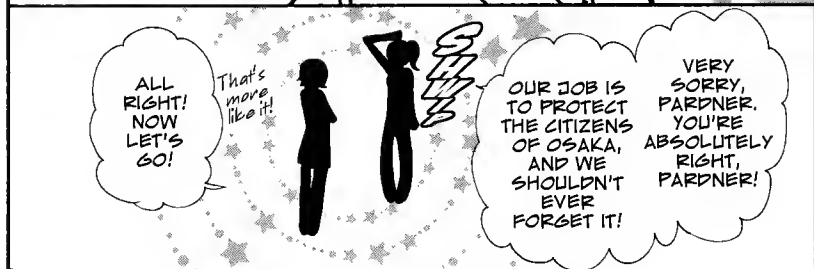
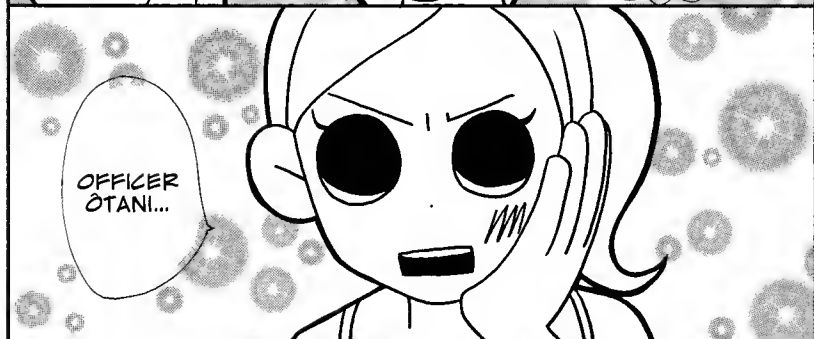
I GUESS  
THIS IS  
WHAT IT  
FEELS LIKE  
TO HAVE  
YOUR HEART  
BROKEN.

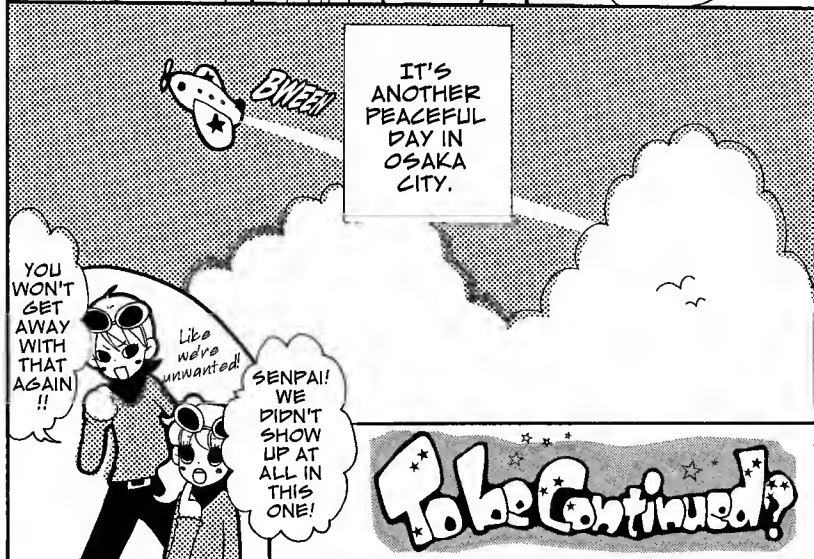
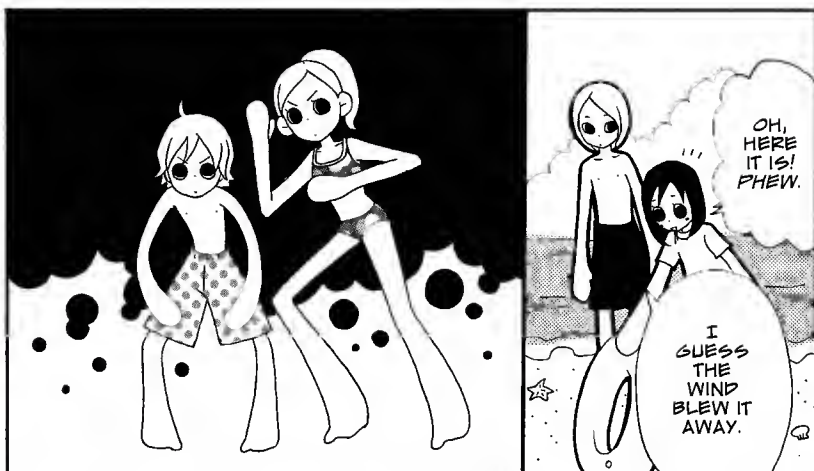


《...to be continued》











# glossary

**Page 5, panel 5: Girl**

In the Japanese, Risa calls him "Atsuko," which is a feminized version of his given name, Atsushi. The "ko" means child, and is a common ending for girls' names.

**Page 5, panel 5: Miss Ôtani**

In the original Japanese, she calls him "Akko-chan," which is even girlier. "Akko" is a nickname for Atsuko, and "chan" is a cute honorific. "Akko-can" also refers to the 60s anime *Himitsu no Akko-chan* (The Secrets of Akko-chan), about a girl with a magic mirror.

**Page 6, panel 1: I sure hope I win...**

This is another example of *nori-tsukkomi*, A type of comedy delivery when you pretend to go along with the setup, and then turn around and call the other person on it.

**Page 12, panel 2: Tokimeki Beach**

*Tokimeki* means "throbbing," "pulsating," or "thrilling."

**Page 67, panel 2: Senpai**

A term of respect for someone with seniority in an organization, such as clubs, schools and offices.

**Page 67, panel 4: Shinsaibashi**

Osaka's main shopping district. There's even an American-themed area called Amerika-muro. Check out the official website:  
<http://www.shinsaibashisuji.com/e/index.html>

**Page 73, panel 5: Badge**

The kanji on the badge reads "umi," which means "sea."

**Page 82, panel 4: Yoshimoto**

Yoshimoto Kogyo is a theater and entertainment company in Osaka that opened in 1912. When it first opened, Yoshimoto hosted *rakugo*, a form of traditional storytelling. These days, it specializes in *manzai*, or comedy duos.

**Page 86, panel 1: triangle on Risa's forehead**

This is the Japanese visual symbol for ghosts, and refers to the headwear placed on the deceased at Shinto funerals.

**Page 90, panel 2: Rat Man**

In Japanese, *Nezumi-otoko*. A character from *Gegege no Kitarô*.

**Page 93, author note: Pichipichi Beach**

*Pichipichi* means "juicy" or "bursting."

**Page 125, panel 3: Hokkaido**

The northernmost and second-largest of the Japanese islands, it is much colder than the rest of the nation.

**Page 139, panel 1: Shishi-odoshi**

A play on words. Ôtani uses *chorochoro-to*, a word that can mean darting quickly, like a deer. But it can also mean a trickling sound, which is how Risa takes it. She tells Ôtani to stop talking about her like she's a *shishi-odoshi*, the type of bamboo fountain pictured above their heads.



How are you, everybody? Nakahara here. We're up to Vol. 4 and still going strong, so it looks like this is going to be the longest series I've ever done. That doesn't mean its content is any deeper or anything, *ha ha ha*. I figure that whether you go to school or to work, you'll have enough to think about every day, so please give your minds a rest while you're reading my manga, at least. If you get a little chuckle out of it here and there, that's enough to make Nakahara-san happy.

**Aya Nakahara** won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

# LOVE★COM VOL 4

The Shoyo Beat Manga Edition



**STORY AND ART BY**  
**AYA NAKAHARA**

**Translation & English Adaptation**/Pookie Rolf

**Touch-up Art & Lettering**/Gia Cam Luc

**Cover Design**/Amy Martin

**Interior Design**/Yuki Amedo

**Editor**/Pancha Diao

**Editor in Chief, Books**/Alvin Lu

**Editor in Chief, Magazines**/Marc Weidenbaum

**VP, Publishing Licensing**/Rika Inouye

**VP, Sales & Product Marketing**/Gonzalo Ferreyra

**VP, Creative**/Lindo Espinosa

**Publisher**/Hyoe Norito

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